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SHULTZ DISCUSSES PROTECTIONISM, TRADE WITH ABE

OM070543 Tokyo KYODO in English 0521 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday told Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP)'s Executive Council Chairman Shintaro Abe that foreign access to the Japanese market should be further improved and urged that Japan step up its efforts to restructure Japanese industries in a move to boost its domestic demand.

Shultz also stressed that Japan should move quickly to fend off protectionist moves in the U.S. Congress in the wake of mounting criticism by U.S. legislators on the lopsided trade imbalance in Japan's favor. Japan had a record trade surplus of \$1.48 billion dollars in 1986 with the United States, according to Japanese trade statistics.

Commenting on the bilateral trade issue, Shultz said that the two countries should neither adopt protectionist policies nor rely on monetary policies to solve their trade friction.

Abe agreed with Shultz's remarks and urged that both nations exert their utmost efforts to open up their markets in order to maintain free trade.

Abe also said he plans to visit the United States sometime in the near future. Responding to this, Shultz said he welcomes the former Japanese foreign minister both publicly and privately.

Shultz Leaves for Home

OM070118 Tokyo KYODO in English 0109 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left for home Saturday morning following an overnight visit to Japan on the last leg of his Asian tour.

While in Tokyo, Shultz held talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari and former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER RAIMOND ARRIVES 7 MARBomb Threat Delays Arrival

BK071536 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 (AFP) -- French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond arrived here about six hours behind schedule Saturday after being forced to modify his travel plans because of a bomb threat to the airline he planned to take.

The French foreign minister had been scheduled to fly from New Delhi to Tokyo via Bangkok on Air India but changed his flight plans after a bomb threat in the Thai capital. Mr. Raimond ended up flying Japan Air Lines to Beijing and then to Tokyo following the bomb threat, the Japanese airline said.

The French Embassy here said that the delay had forced the postponement until Sunday of regular Franco-Japanese consultations.

Mr. Raimond and Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari are to hold two hours of talks Sunday followed by a working dinner, diplomats said.

On Monday, Mr. Raimond is scheduled to meet former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, a potential candidate for the post of prime minister, Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko. He is to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Monday before leaving for Paris.

Meets With Kuranari

OM090101 Tokyo KYODO in English 0033 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO -- France called on Japan here Sunday for greater efforts to correct bilateral trade imbalance lopsided in favor of Japan and open its market wider for imported goods, government officials said.

Meeting for the 20th regular foreign minister consultations, French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond told Japanese counterpart Tadashi Kuranari that European countries are concerned with Japan's further diversion of exports to Europe from the U.S., officials said.

He also requested Japan to treat French companies equally with U.S. firms in participating in the new Kansai International Airport project.

Raimond said Japan's trade surplus with France has been increasing year by year and its surplus with the European Community has also expanded. This trade imbalance is feared to fuel protectionist moves in the world, Raimond said.

Kuranari said Japan is making efforts to change its economic structure to expand domestic demand. Japan cut the official discount rate to a postwar low of 2.5 percent per annum recently and is trying to reform the tax system to stimulate domestic economy, Kuranari explained.

Referring to the total annual bilateral trade volume of only 5 billion dollars, Kuranari said both countries should expand the trade volume in a balanced manner in the future.

Kuranari, however, said Japan's exports have not diverted so much from the U.S. to Europe as France claims, following the sharp appreciation of the yen against the dollar.

He said Japan's exports to the U.S. shrank 80 billion francs last year, but its exports to the EC increased only 8 billion francs. Kuranari asked France for lifting French import restrictions against Japanese goods.

Raimond raised his concern about an alleged infringement of a patent on computer cooling fan owned by Petri (Japan), a subsidiary of a French firm, by Minebea Co. Kuranari said he knew the matter, but it is basically a problem of the private firm.

On culture, Raimond asked Japan for promoting the French language in Japan.

Raimond and Kuranari were to attend a working dinner later to discuss the East-West relations and the South Pacific situation, the officials said.

Global Issues Discussed

OW090407 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO -- French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond urged the Japanese Government Monday to maintain close contacts with Iran, a Foreign Ministry official said.

In a breakfast meeting with his Japanese counterpart Tadashi Kuranari at the official residence of the French ambassador here, Raimond said it was difficult to predict developments in the seven-year Iran-Iraq war, as the Iranians appeared to have higher morale while Iraq was better armed. He said Japan had high-level contacts with Iran compared with other Western nations, and he hoped such contacts would continue, the official said. France normalized relations with Iran in March last year, he said.

Raimond arrived here Saturday to attend the 20th Japan-France foreign ministers' consultations and meet with Crown Prince Akihito and Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

On the conflict in Kampuchea, Raimond said the prospects are difficult to foresee, and asked Japan to exchange information with France on the issue.

Raimond suggested that the development of relations between China and the Soviet Union will not be easy in spite of recent moves toward an improvement in links between the two, because of so-called "obstacles" cited by China, including the Kampuchean issue. Kuranari told Raimond that Japan will cooperate as much as possible in China's modernization projects as China has assured Japan there will be no policy changes following the recent resignation of Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang.

The two agreed to discuss in detail the coming summit meeting of the seven leading industrialized democracies in Venice, Italy, when they attend a council of minister's meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in May in Paris, the official said.

Raimond is due to leave Japan later Monday.

Meets Trade Minister Tamura

OW090837 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO -- Visiting French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond Monday met International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura and asked him to reduce France's chronic trade deficit with Japan, according to government officials.

Raimond, who arrived here Saturday to attend a Japan-France ministerial conference, was quoted as saying that, despite successful exports of aircraft and nuclear technology transfer to Japan, France's trade deficit with Japan totaled 21.6 billion francs in 1986. "Such a huge trade deficit would create an anti-Japanese sentiment among the French people," Raimond said.

Responding to Raimond's remarks, Tamura pointed out Japan's overall exports decreased 1.2 percent in volume in 1986 from the preceding year, while its imports posted a 12.5 percent year-to-year jump. He added Japan's imports in volume of manufactured goods from France soared 55.4 percent last year from 1985.

Calls on LDP's Abe

OW090435 Tokyo KYODO in English 0405 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO -- French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond called on Japan Monday to further open its market to the European Community (EC) to help correct a trade imbalance.

Raimond, who arrived here Saturday, made the request in a meeting with Shintaro Abe, chairman of the Executive Council of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party, at Abe's office in Tokyo.

Abe reiterated Japan's stand that the trade imbalance between Japan and the 12-nation Common Market should not be solved through currency realignment or protectionist measures. Japan, he said, is trying to solve the thorny issue through a series of measures to open wider its market and to boost its domestic demand.

BRAZILIAN FINANCE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

OW081030 Tokyo KYODO in English 1011 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO -- Brazilian Finance Minister Dilson Funaro arrived Sunday for talks with Japanese Government leaders and bankers on additional lending to help finance his country's debt problem.

Funaro is scheduled to meet his Japanese counterpart Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari Monday, and International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura and commercial bankers Tuesday. He will brief them on Brazil's moratorium on interest payments for debts owed to a consortium of some 700 commercial banks, banking sources said. The private debts include 11 billion dollars owed to Japanese banks.

Brazil needs about 7 billion dollars in additional loans this year, the sources said. It plans to seek more than 2 billion dollars from the World Bank and other international agencies, and the rest from private banks.

Funaro's visit is part of his tour of creditor countries from February 26. He has so far visited the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

U.S. officials reportedly told Funaro during his visit to Washington that the administration of President Ronald Reagan will not help Brazil obtain new loans. U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker urged Funaro to start talks with the banking consortium as soon as possible and work out a new economic reconstruction plan, the sources said.

Britain told the Brazilian official that additional lending will be difficult unless Brazil resumes negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on ways of restructuring its economy, they said.

Brazil has foreign debts of more than 100 billion dollars, the largest among debtor nations. A failure of President Jose Sarney's economic reform program has left the country plagued by galloping inflation, slumping exports and shrinking foreign exchange reserves, resulting in the February 20 announcement of suspension of interest payments on commercial debts.

ENVOY IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS GORBACHEV VISIT

OW081237 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO -- Japanese Ambassador in Moscow Yasue Katori will meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in the middle of this month to discuss Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's pending visit to Japan, government officials said Sunday.

The officials said that the Japanese envoy has been proposing under Yasuhiro Nakasone's instruction to have a meeting with Shevardnadze and also with Anatoliy F. Dobrynin, head of the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party. These meetings will take place soon after Shevardnadze returns to Moscow from (his) Asian tour of March 13, they said.

They said that Japan and the Soviet Union have also arrived at an understanding that they would resume official negotiations in April to set the date for the Gorbachev visit.

The Japanese Government had invited the Soviet leader to visit Japan by the end of January, but Foreign Ministry sources said the visit could not be materialized because the Soviet Government was then compelled to review its policy toward the United States concerning the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) issue.

But progress is certain to be made in arranging the visit now in view of the current moves toward a U.S.-Soviet summit following Gorbachev's recent proposal to discuss the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) problem separately from the SDI issue. The Soviet Union has indicated that it is hoping to materialize the Gorbachev visit to Japan before Nakasone ends his term as president of the Liberal-Democratic Party, thus as prime minister, in October, the officials said.

TRADE MISSION TO MEET ITALY'S CRAZI, FRG'S KOHL

OW070425 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO -- A trade mission of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) left Saturday for a nine-day tour of West Germany and Italy. The mission, the second of its kind following last November's mission, is aimed at exchanging opinions on trade issues with political and business leaders of the two countries, federation officials said. The issues will include the trade imbalance between Japan and European Community (EC) member nations and Japanese corporate investment in the two countries [West Germany and Italy], the officials said.

Among officials the delegation is scheduled to meet are Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and the heads of two influential industry associations -- the Federation of German Industry and the General Confederation of Italian Industry. The delegation, headed by Keidanren chairman Eishiro Sato, plans to brief them on the causes of the sluggish Japanese economy, focusing on the yen's steep appreciation, using an English-language pamphlet entitled "Yen Shock."

The West German auto industry has earlier voiced calls for voluntary export curbs by Japanese automakers because auto exports to West Germany posted a sharp rise of some 80 percent in January from a year earlier, the officials said. The delegation was accompanied by seven vice chairmen, including Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of Tokyo Electric Power Co., Takuji Matsuzawa, chairman of Fuji Bank Ltd., and Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp.

SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE PROPOSAL HAILED

SK071253 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2152 GMT 6 Mar 87

[NODONG SINMUN 7 March commentary: "A New Peace-loving Initiative"]

[Text] As has been reported, on 28 February Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, issued a statement in connection with the issue of eliminating medium-range missiles from Europe.

According to the statement, the Soviet Union suggested that the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe be singled out from the package of issues, and that a separate agreement on it be concluded, and without delay, for the sake of such general problems as strategic and space weapons. The statement also said that as soon as there is an agreement on the elimination of the medium-range missiles from Europe, the Soviet Union will withdraw the mobile strategic missiles it had deployed in the GDR and the CSSR as a counterbalance to the deployment of the American Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe after consulting with the governments of these countries. In addition, the statement stated that the Soviet Union will reduce the number of its medium-range missiles in Soviet Asia to 100 on the condition that the United States keeps an equivalent number of medium-range missiles in its territory. This is the Soviet Union's peace-loving initiative.

The Soviet proposal, a positive measure that can enable Europe to make a giant stride in its effort to free itself from nuclear weapons, is a clear expression of the Soviet Union's constant peace efforts.

Our people support the stand expressed in the Soviet proposal. On 15 January last year the Soviet Union put forward a programmatic plan to achieve a total abolition of nuclear weapons by the end of the current century and later at Reykjavik advanced a package proposal for nuclear arms control and their abolition based on this plan. The Soviet Union also took a measure of unilaterally freezing the testing of nuclear weapons for 1 and 1/2 years.

The Soviet proposal concerning the medium-range missiles as such, is an important part of the Soviet Union's general plan designed to abolish the danger of nuclear weapons on earth, will not only be beneficial to preserving peace in Europe and nuclear arms control and the creation of a nuclear-free world when it is realized.

All the proposals for nuclear arms control and their abolition advanced to date by the Soviet Union have not been realized due to U.S. opposition. It is a nuclear arms buildup and preparations for a nuclear war that the U.S. imperialists pursue.

While particularly stressing the military and strategic position of South Korea, the U.S. imperialists have deployed approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons, including neutron bombs, in South Korea, and have continuously introduced various means to deliver nuclear weapons, including Lance missiles.

To be sure, South Korea is now being turned into a source of a dangerous nuclear war. The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, a nuclear test war against our Republic which is being conducted in South Korea and its neighboring areas, is now increasing the danger of nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula while posing a great threat to peace in the world.

At the same time, the United States is now deploying a large number of nuclear weapons in other parts of Asia. The peace-loving people in the world demand that these nuclear weapons deployed in Asia be removed.

The government of our republic has tenaciously exerted efforts to prevent a nuclear war from breaking out on the Korean peninsula, to ease tension, and to promote peace and peaceful reunification. This is evident by such peace initiatives as the proposal for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and another proposal for high-level political and military talks. The world's peace-loving people positively support our peace initiatives and proposals.

The United States should head the demands of the times for independence and peace and should remove U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and all other areas in Asia without delay.

The United States should show sincerity to nuclear arms control and their abolition -- the common aspiration of mankind -- and affirmatively respond to the Soviet proposal for eliminating the medium-range missiles from Europe.

Friendship Society's Support

SK090507 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA) -- Kim Yong-chae, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, issued a press statement on March 8 in support of the February 28 statement of Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on removing medium-range missiles from Europe.

Kim Yong-chae said:

I support the new peace proposal put forward by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev in his statement, considering it to be a positive step which will make it possible to take a big stride forward in the efforts to free Europe from nuclear weapons, a clear manifestation of the consistent peaceloving efforts of the Soviet Union and one more contribution to the cause of world peace.

A large number of reasonable peace proposals for nuclear disarmament and denuclearized world advanced up to this date by the Soviet party, government and people for world peace and security have not been realized owing to the nuclear arms buildup and nuclear war preparations of the United States.

The peace-loving proposals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for easing the tension in Korea and denuclearizing the Korean peninsula and constructive initiatives of socialist countries to avert nuclear war and build a nuclear-free world arouse sympathy and support among the peace-loving people of the world, Kim Yong-chae noted, and stressed:

The United States must withdraw forthwith its nuclear weapons and forces from South Korea, Asia and all other areas as demanded by the peace-loving people of the world and accede to the peace proposal of the Soviet Union to remove medium-range missiles from Europe for European peace and security.

Soviet Ambassador's Remarks

SK060515 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] March 6 (KCNA) -- The Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang called a news conference Thursday with reporters of Korea and other countries attending it.

Soviet Ambassador Nikolay Shubnikov spoke there.

He noted that Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, published an important statement containing a new proposal.

Stating that the Soviet Union has so far made patient efforts to have the programme of nuclear-free world realized, he said a historical opportunity of putting a final end to nuclear testing slipped away due to the irresponsible policy of the United States. The new proposal of the Soviet Union, he said, will be substantially conducive to realizing the programme.

While separating the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe from the package, the Soviet Union still regards it as a very important matter to put fundamental restrictions on strategic weapons and, furthermore, reach an agreement on their complete abolition, he said.

Pointing out that the arms race continues and the danger of nuclear war is looming potential owing to the manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists today, he said this is well illustrated by the "Team Spirit 87" joint military exercises started in South Korea.

This war game poses a direct threat to the security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he said, and stressed: This threat is increased by the presence of more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons and delivery means in South Korea.

Saying the DPRK Government has repeatedly brought forward constructive proposals including the proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks and made patient efforts for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, he declared that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and the progressive public circles on the earth are standing behind the Korean people.

NODONG SINMUN DENOUNCES SHULTZ ROK VISIT

SK080845 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA) -- The Korean people bitterly denounce the South Korean tour of Shultz as an aggressive crime against peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, stresses NODONG SINMUN today in a signed commentary captioned "what did his visit seek?"

Noting that the South Korean tour of U.S. Secretary of State Shultz fully disclosed once again the despicable master-servant relations between the real ruler of South Korea and his henchmen, the U.S. imperialists' invariable aggressive design on Korea and the puppet clique's treacherous nature, the commentary says:

At a time when the "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercises, a "preliminary war" and a "test nuclear war" against the northern half of the DPRK, are going on in full scale, Shultz set foot in South Korea and clamoured about the United States' unshakable defence commitments" for South Korea. This added fuel to and fanned the frantic play with fire and showed well how hard the U.S. imperialists are stepping up war preparations against our republic and other socialist countries.

Shultz made a "meaningful talk" to the puppet authorities that difficulties would not be one or two in "dialogue and compromise" and reaffirmed the United States' "strong support to and cooperation" with the puppets for their "security".

Frankly speaking, this means that the puppets should in no case fall back even a step from power and should not become "second Marcos".

Shultz also promised active cooperation for the Olympics and thereby revealed the design to continuously back up the puppets as ever and step up "two Koreas" plot.

His South Korean tour merits attention because it took place at a time when the newly-appointed U.S. ambassador to South Korea, the chief of the South Korean branch of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the commander of the U.S. forces and the commander of the U.S. Second Infantry Division occupying South Korea who have won ill fame for their craftiness, cruelty and bellicosity have seated themselves in their posts. It can be fully supposed that Shultz conveyed the instructions of the U.S. Government to the local executors of the U.S. policies toward South Korea to intensify the U.S. policy of South Korean occupation, further turn South Korea into a nuclear base, bar the peaceful reunification of Korea, create "two Koreas", crack down upon the just struggle of the South Korean people and maintain the colonial military fascist rule.

Shultz's tour of South Korea is a tour of aggression, interference and war. It was only a new element further aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

MINJU CHOSON and PYONGYANG SINMUN also print commentaries denouncing the South Korean tour of Shultz.

KCNA REPORTS 'TEAM SPIRIT-87' EXPANDED

SK070532 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 7 (KCNA) -- The U.S. imperialist aggressors running riot in the "Team Spirit-87" military manoeuvres brought the main force unit of the Okinawa-based U.S. Third Marine Division to an east coast base of South Korea on March 5, according to a report.

This action on the threshold of a landing exercise at Pohang simulating an attack on a coastal city of the northern half of the Republic indicates that the "Team Spirit-87" exercises aimed at northward invasion is entering a full-fledged stage.

NO TAE-U'S 5 MAR REMARKS CALLED 'SORDID LIE'

00081142 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2152 GMT 7 Mar 87

[DOHONG SIKHUN 8 March commentary: "A Sordid Lie and A Dark Intention"]

[Text] Having gathered members of the advisory committee for the policy of peaceful unification and specialists on relations between the North and the South on 5 March, DJP Chairman No Tae-u conducted a panel discussion on the present status of North-South relations. Because this meeting was held shortly after our side sent the third letter to the South side, advancing a new proposal to realize high-level North-South political and military talks, this meeting should have covered matters to urge the authorities to affirmatively respond to our sincere proposal. However, the truth of the meeting covered by mass media is quite different from what it was supposed to be.

Saying that someone else ignores dialogue and negotiations and is plotting provocations through violence and social chaos, No Tae-u rather wickedly slandered us on that day and only fanned anticommunist sentiment. Although the South Korean puppets often resort to the trick of reversing black and white, the rascals' recent act of raising a commotion astonished many people because of its brazen nature.

At a time when we have exerted every possible sincere effort to realize high-level North-South political and military talks and continue suspended multilateral dialogues, we take a serious view of such remarks by the chairman of the South Korean ruling party. Rascal No Tae-u raved that they alone desire dialogue and negotiations. Did he deserve to do so?

As the entire world knows, we have sent letters to the South Korean side on three occasions this year alone, and have repeatedly advanced proposals toward providing an atmosphere of dialogue and trust, preventing the danger of war, and achieving a new breakthrough in attaining peace and peaceful reunification by ending the state of acute political and military confrontation on the Korean peninsula by holding high-level North-South political and military talks. In particular, in the third letter dated 28 February, which views that a South response to the proposal for holding high-level North-South political and military talks will open the road toward dialogue and detente, we showed magnanimity in proposing the resumption of suspended multilateral dialogues, along with the convocation of these talks, and the discussion of the construction of the Kungangsan power station, which poses no problem at all. We have also expressed our desire to accelerate the convocation of supreme-level talks.

Our new and important proposal has aroused full support and sympathy from the peace-loving people of the world and from social public opinion.

Who has ignored dialogue and negotiations and who has been engaged in provocations? The Chon Tu-hwan ring. At a time when we have repeatedly called for dialogue, the fascist clique has wickedly kicked up a commotion of anticommunist confrontation. By mobilizing, with the U.S. imperialists, vast troops numbering more than 200,000 in an attempt to impose nuclear disaster on fellow countrymen, the puppets have launched the powder-reeking "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise, an unprecedentedly large nuclear war exercise. At the end of February, they kicked up the "Pangpae-87" war exercise commotion against the Republic.

Because of the anticommunist commotion kicked up by the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan clique, because of their maneuvers to increase military capability, and because of their war exercise commotion, the situation on the Korean peninsula has been extremely strained, and a very dangerous state has continued to the extent that we do not know when a war might be touched off. Can we describe this as an attitude conducive to dialogue and negotiations?

Rascal No Tae-u's act of boisterously making remarks are a fraudulent trick designed to extricate himself from a corner into which he has been driven, by impeding our proposal to hold high-level North-South political and military talks and our sincere effort to implement this proposal from greatly influencing the South Korean people and the people of the world and by ignoring our proposal for talks. This is a base maneuver to ignore fellow countrymen's proposal for holding peace talks and to justify their criminal maneuvers to stage a power-raking war exercise with the U.S. imperialists.

What we cannot overlook is that at the meeting, rascal No Tae-u raved that reunification can be feasible when those concerned achieve the absolute superiority of strength. This is the reproduction of the theory of achieving reunification by annihilating and winning victory over communists -- a theory of doing something against someone else by fostering strength.

The superiority of strength is not necessary in achieving peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiations. The theory of the superiority of strength is the theory of rejecting dialogue and the theory of war of northward invasion.

While harboring the wicked intention to provoke an aggressive war against fellow countrymen with the U.S. imperialist aggressors, they are trying to wear the cap of dialogue and reunification. They clamorously babble about someone else's provocations. This is a great deception.

While wickedly kicking up anticommunist, confrontation, and war commotions, the Chon Tu-hwan ring, suppressing the people and opposition forces on charges of tolerating communists and assuming a pro-communist attitude, is trying to implement a plot to once again seize power. The Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique is not at all interested in North-South dialogue, in negotiations, or in peaceful reunification. No Tae-u's absurd remarks show this. The Chon Tu-hwan ring, which runs counter to the desires and aspirations of fellow countrymen and which has clung to division, confrontation, and war maneuvers, will never be safe.

ROK URGED TO RESPOND TO THIRD LETTER'S PROPOSALS

5 Mar NODONG SINMUN

SK060127 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2151 GMT 4 Mar 87

[NODONG SINMUN 5 March commentary: "The South Side Should Respond at an Early Date"]

[Text] On 3 March, the premier of the DPRK State Administration Council and the minister of the People's Armed Forces sent the South Korean side a third letter dated 28 February calling on them to respond soon to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks.

In this letter, our side expresses regret that the South has disappointed its fellow countrymen by turning away from our peace proposal, and proposes new epochal initiatives, taking into consideration the wishes expressed by the South side.

We first stated that the North-South Red Cross talks, North-South economic talks, and the preliminary contacts for the North-South parliamentary talks could be held concurrently with the high-level North-South political and military talks we have proposed, if the South side insists on resuming the existing dialogues, although it is reasonable to resume the suspended multi-channelled dialogues after first holding the high-level North-South political and military talks and creating an atmosphere of dialogue, in view of the urgency of the present situation in which a state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South is extremely strained and in view of the fundamental demand for progress in North-South dialogue.

We have also made it clear that although the construction of our Kungangsan power plant is peaceful construction and should not constitute any problem, if the South remains suspicious, the construction of the Kungangsan power plant can also be discussed, as well as issues we have already raised, during high-level North-South political and military talks, as part of an endeavor to eliminate distrust and misunderstanding between the North and the South and to create an atmosphere that promotes trust and reconciliation.

We have also proclaimed that if high-level North-South political and military talks are held and they progress, an atmosphere conducive to holding highest-level talks will be created and work to prepare for them will be actively pushed ahead, thereby making it possible to hold highest-level talks within the shortest period of time.

This is further clear evidence of our serious and sincere peace-loving efforts to end the state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South by all means and improve the North-South relations by creating an atmosphere conducive to dialogue, trust, and peace.

Our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks is a most realistic proposal for national salvation to end the tense state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South, create an atmosphere for dialogue and trust, prevent war, and save the country and the nation from the life-and-death, survival-and-destruction danger, and, further, open a breakthrough for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The South Korean side should have affirmatively responded earlier to our peace proposal. Yet the South has turned away and has avoided making an affirmative response until today, more than 2 months after we proposed the high-level, North-South political and military talks.

Moreover, the South Korean ruling bunch has turned away from the peace proposal by fellow countrymen and has been conducting, together with the United States, the criminal "Team Spirit" joint military exercise against our Republic, leading the situation in the country to the brink of war.

Although we have provided a convincing explanation, they have continued to find fault with our peaceful construction of the Kungangsan power plant, describing it as a water-invasion operation, conducting vicious anticommunist confrontation commotions, and harshly suppressing the just advance of the South Korean youths, students, and people, branding it communist-sympathizing and even pro-North acts.

These acts committed by the South Korean ruling bunch are unpardonable criminal acts before the country and the nation. One cannot but view that although the South Korean ruling bunch mentions the resumption of the existing dialogues and the talks between the highest persons in authority, they have never had the will to improve North-South relations and open the road to peace and reunification through dialogue and negotiation.

Dialogue and confrontation, peace and the commotion of war are far from compatible. Today, the political and military confrontation between the North and the South is in its worst state, such that it has reached the very dangerous point where war can break out from a trivial, accidental incident. This is a situation upon which no one can just look with folded hands. This situation can be solved only when high-level persons in authority and those who hold real military power in the North and the South sit together; for this reason high-level North-South political and military talks should be held.

If the South Korean side affirmatively responds to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks, there will be the prospect of easing the state of political and military confrontation, and then the existing dialogues called for by the South side can also be resumed.

Out of the serious desire to achieve a breakthrough in the present difficult situation by all means and to provide a phase advantageous to peace and peaceful reunification, we have again shown our sincerity and broad-mindedness to the South side.

The South Korean ruling bunch should rid themselves of the bad habit of blindly criticizing us and behaving rudely. Under circumstances in which our proposal embraces all the wishes of the South side, there should be no reason the South Korean persons in authority cannot accept it. Now the South side treats our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks will clearly show once again whether they are in favor of dialogue, peace, and reunification or whether they are in favor of confrontation, war, and division. The South side should not engage in confrontation and war commotion against us as previously, but affirmatively respond to our patriotic and nation-loving proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks.

6 Mar NODONG SINMUN

SK060525 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 6 (KCNA) -- If the South side truly wants to tide over the present deadlock between the North and the South and follow together with us the road of peace in the country and its peaceful reunification, it must show an affirmative response to our proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks which has taken into consideration even the demand of the South side, says NODONG SINMUN Friday in a signed commentary carried in connection with a new important initiative advanced by our side in the third letter to the South side calling for holding North-South high-level political and military talks.

In the letter to the South side, we clarified that North-South high-level political of the suspended multi-channelled dialogues, the problem of the construction of the Kungangsan power station in the North discussed at the talks, and successful progress of the talks would make it possible to hold the summit talks at an early date, the commentary notes, and says:

Our new proposal is an expression of our sincere and patriotic stand to turn the relations between the North and the South closed to each other to relations of trust and harmony, prevent a war and thereby save the country and the nation from a crisis and, further, open a new phase for peace and peaceful reunification.

It is no doubt that if North-South high-level political and military talks are held to discuss and take steps for removing the present political confrontation including the discontinuation of slander and defamation and measures for relaxing the present tension, such as reduction of armed forces, stop to the arms race, conversion of the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line into a peace zone and discontinuation of large-scale military exercise as proposed by us, a breakthrough will be made for peace and peaceful reunification.

Our proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks is aimed at creating a favourable atmosphere for the progress of dialogues by removing practical factors wrecking the environment of dialogue.

If the South side responds to our proposal, it will be possible to ease the political confrontation and military tension and thereby open a way for liquidating misunderstanding and distrust and creating an atmosphere of trust and unity between the North and the South and resume the "past dialogues" demanded by the South side. Furthermore, it will exert a favorable influence on the holding of the summit talks between the North and the South.

If the South Korean authorities turn their face away again from our new peace proposal, they will be unable to escape the denunciation of the entire fellow countrymen in the North and the South and peace-loving people of the world.

Power Industry Statement

SK060510 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The spokesman for the DPRK Power Industry Committee issued a press statement supporting the new proposal concerning the North-South dialogue put forward in the 3d letter recently sent by the premier of the State Administration Council and the minister of the People's Armed Forces to the South Korean prime minister and defense minister. The press statement of the spokesman for the DPRK Power Industry Committee:

The premier of the DPRK State Administration Council and the minister of the People's Armed Forces, in the 3d letter they sent to the South Korean side, put forward an epochal proposal to achieve a breakthrough in the present difficult situation that prevails in our country and to open a wide avenue for dialogue, and set forth their broad-minded position that the issue of the construction of the Kungangsan power plant, which is being used for political and military confrontation between the North and the South, can be discussed during the high-level North-South political and military talks.

Admitting that this proposal is another expression of our sincere and serious efforts to improve North-South relations, to remove distrust and misunderstanding between them, and to promote national reconciliation and unity, I actively support it.

Speaking of the construction of the Kungangsan power plant, it is not the kind of matter by nature that requires discussion with the South Korean side. As the world publicly acknowledges, the construction of the Kungangsan power plant is undoubtedly a grand nature-remaking project, and peaceful construction that will help South Korea in many ways rather than bring about any threat or economic damage to it, leaving no ground whatsoever for South Korea to interfere or consider it a problem. Furthermore, the South Korean side is a direct party concerned, which has been slandering and defaming us, inventing absurd falsehoods in connection with the construction of the Kungangsan power plant, and does not deserve to mention talks and has lost face mentioning them. Therefore, we strongly maintain that if the South Korean side really feels threatened by our construction of the Kungangsan power plant and has the will to hold talks with us, they should frankly admit the crime they have committed and apologize in a manner convincing to our side, before mentioning talks. This is a fair and just right which our side, slandered under false accusation, can naturally demand of the South side, the assailant.

Nevertheless, the South Korean ruling bunch has not apologized for the crime it has committed in connection with constructing the Kungangsan power plant, but has continued the impure acts of persistently finding fault with us and inspiring hostility within the nation, leaving our people vehemently surging. Under such circumstances, it is impossible for us to have talks and negotiate with the South Korea side. However, in view of the fact that the construction of the Kungangsan power plant is being used by the South side for political and military confrontation between the North and South, our side has proposed that this issue be discussed in the high-level North-South political and military talks, rather than holding separate talks to discuss it. This is a reflection of the serious and broad-minded position to turn the atmosphere of confrontation between the North and the South in the direction of alleviation by all means, to provide an atmosphere for national unity and reconciliation, and to open a bright road to alleviation, dialogue, and peaceful reunification.

If the issue of the construction of the Kungangsan power plant is discussed in the high-level North-South political and military talks, participated in by high-level persons in authority and those who hold real power in the military from both sides, it would contribute to solving the problem of promoting national reconciliation and understanding. If the South Korean side truly has the will to discuss with us the issue of the construction of the Kungangsan power plant, they should respond without delay to the high-level North-South political and military talks, and immediately stop all anticommunist commotion to inspire hostility within the nation. I express the expectation that the South Korean side will deeply consider and respond to our broad-minded and serious new proposal.

[Signed] 5 March 1987, Pyongyang

Economic Delegation Statement

SK071227 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Statement by Yi Song-nok, head of the DPRK delegation to North-South economic talks, on 6 March in Pyongyang -- read by announcer]

[Text] As already reported, in their third letter, the premier of the State Administration Council and the minister of the People's Armed Forces of the DPRK proposed anew that while holding high-level North-South political and military talks, various dialogues, including the North-South economic talks, can be simultaneously resumed and that the problem of the construction of the Kungangsan power plant, advanced by the South can be discussed at high-level North-South political and military talks.

I actively support and welcome this new proposal, recognizing that it is a very active, magnanimous, and epochal step to open a new aspect in resolving dialogue, detente, and reunification in our country.

As the South Korean side knows, the mission of our North-South economic talks is to contribute to building a rich and powerful reunified fatherland by realizing collaboration and exchange between the North and South in the economic field to recover the severed economic ties between them and, thus, by developing the economy of the North and South in a unified manner and in conformity with the common interest of the nation. In order for the North-South economic talks to smoothly carry out this intrinsic mission, distrust and confrontation should be eliminated between the North and South, a trend of national reconciliation and unity should be created, and an atmosphere for talks should be provided.

At the same time, in order to make economic talks themselves successful in the spirit of mutual cooperation and unity and in order for the North and South to jointly develop and utilize resources and technology in the economic field and to briskly exchange materials, the tension prevailing between the North and South should be alleviated and an atmosphere for trusts and harmony be created between them.

Under the condition in which the extremely aggravated political and military confrontation between the North and South at present has not been removed, both sides cannot smoothly resolve any economic issues, small or large, which arise in North-South relations, even if they sit face to face and, rather, will bring about only a result of deepening distrust and antagonism between the North and South in a sense.

Historic experience in North-South dialogue, including economic talks, has taught that in order to realize North-South dialogue and to successfully resolve problems, tension should be alleviated and a favorable atmosphere promoting mutual trust should be created.

Our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks is a most reasonable step to arrange favorable circumstances and conditions for North-South dialogue, including economic talks, by eliminating the present acute political and military confrontation in our country and by creating an atmosphere of detente and peace.

Nevertheless, the South Korean side, turning a deaf ear to our reasonable proposal for negotiations, has talked about the resumption of the existing dialogue without reason. This is not a stand and attitude to sincerely resolve problems.

In the current letter, our side has advanced anew that if the South Korean side affirmatively responds to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks, we will simultaneously hold the political and military talks and the suspended dialogues. This is an epochal step which makes it possible to find a clue to resolving North-South relations without difficulty.

In fact, if the South Korean side shows at least an affirmative response to our new proposal, we can consider that it has the will to eliminate the political and military confrontation between the North and South, and, accordingly, we think that we can sit face to face again at the tables of the existing talks, including North-South economic talks, with the South Korean side.

If high-level North-South political and military talks are held as a result of the realization of this new proposal of ours, and accordingly, if various dialogues that had been held are resumed along with the political and military talks, the situation of our country can be developed from confrontation to detente, and consequently, North-South relations will enter a new stage, and a new aspect will be opened for peace in our country and its peaceful reunification.

I believe that the new proposal advanced by our premier of the State Administration Council and minister of the People's Armed Forces in their third letter to the South Korean side is a magnanimous step which has been taken even out of consideration of the South Korean side's demand and that, therefore, there will be no inconvenience for the South Korean side in accepting the proposal.

If detente and resumption of the resisting dialogues that the persons in authority in South Korea have talked about whenever an opportunity presented itself are their true insistence, they should accept our new proposal advanced this time without delay.

I take this opportunity to express the hope that the South Korean delegation to the North-South economic talks will make all possible efforts so that the South Korean authorities will accept our new proposal.

We will watch the South Korean side's attitude.

[Dated] 6 March 1987, Pyongyang

Chon Kum-chol Statement

SK090330 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Statement by Chon Kum-chol, head of the DPRK delegation to preliminary North-South parliamentary talks, on DPRK's 3d letter proposing talks]

[Text] The proposal contained in the third letter to the South Korean side from the premier of the State Administration Council and the minister of People's Armed Forces of the DPRK that while the high-level North-South political and military talks are being conducted, the North-South economic talks and the North-South Red Cross talks, including the preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks, can be reopened and that the issue concerning the construction of the Kungangsan power plant can also be discussed at the high-level North-South political and military talks, is a clear expression of the serious, generous, and sincere efforts on our part to produce a new breakthrough for detente, dialogue, and peaceful reunification of the country at any cost.

Regarding this new proposal as an epochal and positive measure capable of eliminating the political and military confrontation which is being exacerbated daily between the North and South and of providing a vast path toward dialogue, I positively support and welcome it.

To improve relations between the North and South and achieve national reunification through dialogue and negotiations, it is imperative to provide a favorable atmosphere capable of successfully pushing ahead with dialogue. It is impossible to make dialogue a success under circumstances in which political confrontation exacerbates and military tension culminates.

If one pursues confrontation and war against the other party to dialogue while engaging in dialogue, such a dialogue cannot contribute to easing tension and achieving national unity and reunification if it is only used for confrontation.

One objective we have sought to pursue behind our insistence in the preliminary contact for parliamentary talks on adopting the issue of announcing a joint declaration of nonaggression as an agenda item for the parliamentary talks has been to eliminate obstacles laid to the various forms of dialogue conducted between the North and South and provide a favorable atmosphere for dialogue. If the South Korea side had accepted our proposal, and as a result the parliamentary talks had been held and eventually announced the joint declaration of nonaggression, the political and military confrontation between the North and South would have already been eliminated, North-South dialogues would have been successfully conducted without being interrupted, and a favorable environment would have been provided for peaceful reunification of the country

However, the preliminary contact for the North-South parliamentary talks was driven into an inactive state, as is widely known, due to the unjust stand of the South side in insisting on discussing only the issue of a unified constitution at the parliamentary talks and not discussing the issue of announcing the joint declaration of nonaggression. Consequently the preliminary contact was suspended due to the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise forcibly conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

Since then, distrust and confrontation between the North and South have become more acute with the passage of time instead of abating, and now reach a point where they could lead to the outbreak of another war. Such a situation confronts the elimination of such acute political and military confrontation between the North and South as a primary and pressing issue.

Reflecting the demands of the situation prevailing in the country, we have put forward the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks out of a noble, single-minded hope to create a favorable atmosphere capable of promoting national harmony and trust and of successfully advancing North-South dialogues. Nevertheless, the South Korean side, ignoring our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks, which has unanimously been welcomed at home and abroad, has insisted on reopening dialogues that have already been established and on holding talks between the persons in highest authority without condition. As a result, the high-level North-South political and military talks have not been held, and even the various forms of North-South dialogues have remained unresumed.

Under any circumstances, we must rescue the country and people from the immediate danger of war. To this end we should bring about a breakthrough for the solution to the issue, instead of sitting calmly and doing nothing. Proceeding from such a stand, this time we have put forward a positive and generous proposal for holding high-level North-South political and military talks and reopening the suspended talks simultaneously by taking into consideration the South side's demands.

If the South Korean side affirmatively responds to our proposal for holding high-level North-South political and military talks, the political and military confrontation between the North and South will be eased and a phase of detente and peace will be opened. When this happens, various forms of dialogues, including the North-South parliamentary talks, will be actively pushed ahead amid an atmosphere of national harmony and unity, and eventually talks between the persons in highest authority will also be pushed ahead at an early date.

I believe that the South Korean side has no reason or excuse to not accept our new recent proposal, as it is a most fair and flexible measure capable of substantially realizing even the assertions of the South Korean side about the reopening of dialogues that have already been established and talks between persons in highest authority.

If the South Korean side hopes for the relaxation of tension and for reopening dialogues that have already been established as well as for holding talks between the persons in highest authority, it should willingly respond to our new proposal, instead of clinging to its own assertions.

I hope that the delegates of the South side to the preliminary contact for the North-South parliamentary talks also will make positive efforts as a matter of course so as to make the persons in authority in South Korea respond to our epochal proposal, and therefore the preliminary contacts between the two sides will be realized at an early date.

[Dated] 8 March 1987, Pyongyang

O CHIN-U CONFERED CPC MEDAL ON 70TH BIRTHDAY

SK080150 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 7 Mar 87

[DPRK Central People's Committee Decree on conferment of the Kim Il-song medal on Comrade O Chin-u]

[Text] Upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership, Comrade O Chin-u contributed to achieving the cause of national liberation by participating in the glorious anti-Japanese armed struggle. He made active contributions to the work of strengthening our party, the people's government, and the People's Army by implementing the party's line for building the party, the state, and the armed forces in the liberated fatherland and greatly contributed to victory of the war by successfully carrying out the missions assigned by the party during the period of the just fatherland liberation war against the armed invasion of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their stooges.

The Comrade firmly established the ideological system of *chuche* within the People's Army safeguarding and implementing our party's military line under the party's leadership while working in important posts of the party, the state, and the People's Army during the postwar days and strengthened and developed the People's Army into a rock-firm one-a-match-for-100 rank. Thus, he made outstanding contributions to crushing the reckless aggressive war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their stooges and in reliably defending the security of the fatherland and the people.

The DPRK Central People's Committee [CPC] confers the Kim Il-song Medal on Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau of Presidium of the WPK Central Committee, and minister of the People's Armed Forces, who has made great contributions to strengthening and developing our party through his devoted struggle by upholding the party's leadership, to strengthening the revolutionary armed forces, and in the struggle to achieve the cause of the *chuche*-orientation of the entire society, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

[Signed] The DPRK CPC

[Dated] 3 March 1987, Pyongyang

SECRETARY SHULTZ' VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA CONTINUES

Meeting With Choe Kwang-Su

SK060852 Seoul YONHAP in English 0838 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP) -- The South Korean Government has no option but to take stern measures against the mass violence that threatens the nation's legal order, Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su said Friday in a meeting with visiting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Social and political stability and legal order are "indispensable prerequisites" to the "gradual and peaceful realization" of Korea's goal of rewriting the constitution through dialogue and compromise, a Foreign Ministry source quoted Choe as saying. The meeting between Choe and Shultz took place in the foreign minister's office in the capitol building.

The government and the ruling Democratic Justice Party are doing their best to achieve their common goals of revising the constitution through dialogue and compromise and of carrying out the peaceful transfer of power after President Chun Tu-hwan's single seven-year term expires next February, Choe continued. "It is our government's basic position that problems involved in the process of constitutional revision and peaceful power transfer should be solved through dialogue and compromise," Choe said.

Shultz stopped in Seoul for a five-hour visit on his way back to Washington on Friday to brief Korean Government leaders on his recent five-day trip to China.

Since the U.S. secretary's last visit to Korea in May 1986, Korea has had some problems maintaining political and social stability because the opposition camp "has repeatedly resorted to mass agitation," Choe was quoted as saying.

In the meeting, Choe and Shultz discussed a wide range of matters of mutual concern and common interest to their two countries, including security cooperation, the United States' support of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, developments in inter-Korean relations in the wake of Pyongyang's recent proposal for meetings of high-ranking political and military leaders of two Koreas, and the internal political situation in South Korea.

Shultz said he understands the Korean Government's efforts to maintain social stability and to promote democratization through dialogue and compromise, and he emphasized the need to further strengthen bilateral security cooperation, the source said.

Choe and Shultz agreed that Korea should open its markets more widely to U.S. products and that the recent protectionist trend is not conducive to improving bilateral economic cooperation.

Departure Press Conference

SK060956 Seoul YONHAP in English 0941 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP) -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Friday reaffirmed the U.S. government's "unwavering commitment to help and provide the necessary security that will enable the Korean people to continue their work for further economic and political development."

The U.S. Government stands ready to do all it can to help ensure "the safety and success of the 1988 Seoul Olympics," the secretary added. He said that his visit to the Olympic facilities "reinforced my confidence that the Olympics will be a great success." Shultz made the remarks in a press conference held at the Olympic hall at the conclusion of his five-and-a-half-hour visit to Seoul. He came here Friday morning from Beijing to brief the Korean government on the results of his visit to China. Earlier, he called on President Chon Tu-hwan, who threw a luncheon for him and his party, including Gaston Sigur, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

In the press conference, held shortly before his departure to Tokyo, Shultz emphasized that the United States, as a friend and ally, supports the aspirations of all Koreans for continuing political development, respect for basic human rights and free and fair elections.

Shultz said that Washington will continue to support all those in Korea who seek moderation and non-violent political change, in accordance with the aspirations of the Korean people. He noted that, in a speech on Feb. 6 in New York, Gaston Sigur gave the U.S. Government's views in some detail. In the speech, presented at a meeting of the U.S.-Korea Society, Sigur stressed the need for compromise and consensus among the major political players in Korea, instead of violence, the abuse of physical force, "obstinate confrontation" between the rival parties, and the intervention of the military in politics.

Shultz's visit to Seoul aroused much interest in Korean political circles in that it came amid extreme confrontations between the ruling and opposition camps over the planned constitutional revision and accompanying democratic reforms.

One of the confrontations concerned the torture death of a student activist by police, which occurred on Jan. 14. The main opposition party's plans to stage mass rallies protesting the student's death were blocked by the government, which called the rallies "illegal."

Shultz said that he and President Chon discussed a wide range of issues, including security, how to reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula, the continuing economic prosperity of Korea and the United States, and the process of political evolution. He also reaffirmed Washington's support of the Korean Government's efforts to carry out the orderly transition of political power, saying that Chon's commitment to leaving office in 1988 will set a historic tradition for the peaceful transfer of power in Korea.

Regarding Korea's constitutional revision process, Shultz said that the Korean people themselves should decide about the structure and style of the successor government, as well as the elections through which they will choose that government.

Before meeting with Chon, Shultz called on Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su and discussed "matters of mutual concern" affecting relations between Korea and the United States, according to Korean officials. In their 30-minute meeting, Shultz briefed Choe on the outcome of his visit to China and explained recent developments in Sino-Soviet relations, the officials said.

Earlier on Thursday, William Clark, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, held separate discussions with opposition leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam. He came here Wednesday to prepare for Shultz's visit to Korea.

Clark also met with Yi Min-u, president of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party, and Yi Man-sop, president of the Korea National Party. He did not meet with No Tae-u, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, however. Clark reportedly requested a meeting with No but the chairman declined citing a previous appointment.

On Thursday, the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party issued a statement saying that it welcomes Shultz's visit but cannot help recalling that the U.S. secretary "disappointed the Korean people greatly" in his last visit here in May of last year. During his last visit here, Shultz declined to meet with the two de facto leaders of the opposition party -- Kim Tae-chung, chairman of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, and Kim Yong-sam, permanent adviser to the party. Instead, Shultz instructed Sigur to meet with "the Kims," but the opposition leaders refused to meet with him.

The opposition party's statement also said that it hopes that even though Shultz's visit would be brief, he should get a "correct picture" of the Korean political situation and an understanding of the Korean people's aspirations.

YI MIN-U DISCUSSES 7-POINT PROPOSAL WITH CLARK

SK070059 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 Mar 87 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column]

[Text] NKDP president Yi Min-u seemed encouraged by his meeting with a U.S. official when he said yesterday that "my seven-point democratization formula cannot and should not be scrapped."

In a series of meetings with ruling and opposition politicians Thursday, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs William Clark reportedly expressed his concern in favor of Yi's proposal.

Again explaining it to reporters, Yi maintained, "The ruling DJP should make a decision on how to carry out the democratization measures, instead of taking interest in whether or not my proposal still remains effective."

Asked if he will specify the proposal, the NKDP president replied that such matters will be naturally dealt with "when the Assembly is convened and interparty dialogue are resumed."

Two Kim's Rebuff Proposal

SK070101 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 Mar 87 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column]

[Text] Deputies of Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam rebuffed yesterday the sevenpoint democratization formula proposed by NKDP president Yi Min-u as anything but the party's official stance.

When Yi explained that he exchanged views with a senior U.S. official about his democratization formula, at a party officeholders' meeting, vice presidents Choe Hyong-u and Yang Sun-chik cut him short. They demanded to know "where on earth did the so-called Yi Min-u idea come from."

Yi met with William Clark, a U.S. assistant secretary of state, Thursday and stressed the importance of his seven-point democratization formula.

The tough stance of the two Kim's factions, or the mainstreamers, was seen as an intention to forestall a revival of Yi's formula.

No Tae-u's Reaction

SK070055 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Mar 87 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column]

[Text] DJP chairman No Tae-u expressed deep displeasure over the words and actions conveyed by opposition leaders in their meetings with senior American Government officials.

No said, "I almost wept out of sadness to see the so-called democratic figures brashly taking pictures with a U.S. deputy assistant secretary," he said.

The DJP chairman was referring to the two Kims (Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung) and NDP [New Korea Democratic Party] President Yi Min-u who each met separately with William Clark, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, Thursday.

No was learned to have declined a meeting with Clark, who flew into Seoul ahead of Shultz.

"It was really sad to see that the opposition leaders cannot free themselves from such mean, prideless behavior," the DJP chairman deplored.

He then refuted the opposition leaders' assertion that anti-American sentiment in Korea stems from the U.S. Government's support of the current regime in Korea.

He asked, "What would happen to our nation if the United States stopped supporting us, sought to withdraw its troops from Korea or mounted stronger pressure against us to open the local market for its products?"

"Even a small schoolboy knows whether the U.S. backing of our nation benefits one specific person in power or all the people in our country," he said.

ASSASSIN FOUND TO BE RESPECTABLE BUSINESSMAN

SK070011 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] The Japanese man who had been suspected of plotting to assassinate foreign diplomats in Korea, was found to be a respectable businessman, police said yesterday.

Tadao Akaki, 55, was apprehended by police when he arrived at Kimpo International Airport at 1:15 p.m. Thursday, according to the National Police Headquarters (NPH).

But he was found to be running a construction company and other businesses in Japan, the NPH said.

In a letter mailed to the Korean Embassy in Tokyo recently, Akaki was fingered as a terrorist bent on slaying foreign envoys in Korea.

Akaki was quoted as telling investigators that the letter's author may have been a disgruntled former business associate motivated by revenge.

YONHAP REPORTS DEFECTION OF NORTH KOREAN SOLDIER

SK070700 Seoul YONHAP in English 0653 GNT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 7 (YONHAP) -- A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea Saturday morning via the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Korean peninsula, the Defense Ministry announced. A ministry announcement said Sergeant Yu Chon-su, assigned to North Korea's Eighth Division, crossed the buffer zone and into a South Korean guard post, some eight kilometers west of the truce village of Panmunjom, at 7:57 a.m. (2257 GNT Friday) under cover of poor visibility.

Yu, 24, who has longed for the free world since he joined the North Korean Army, escaped North Korea to be free from the inhuman life in the North Korean Army and hard labor for the preparation for war, the announcement said.

Yu is currently under investigation by pertinent authorities. When the investigation is over, details about his defection will be made public, it said.

Yu is the 99th northern defector to the South since the 1953 truce ended the Korean war (1950-53).

SPORTS MINISTER COMMENTS ON VISIT TO E. EUROPE

SK051248 Seoul YONHAP in English 1240 GNT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP) -- South Korean Sports Minister Yi Se-ki said Thursday Hungary and two other East European nations agreed to make efforts not to repeat Olympic boycott in Seoul next year. Upon arrival at Seoul's Kimpo Airport from a weeklong tour of Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and two other European countries, Yi said the three East European nations showed a keen interest in the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics and pledged to strive for the prevention of further Olympic boycotts. In 1984, the Soviet Union led a boycott of the Los Angeles Games and the United States did so in 1980 in protest over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

He said the three East European nations have formally or informally confirmed their participation in the Seoul Olympics and promised sports exchanges with South Korea.

It was the first time for a South Korean cabinet minister to visit the Soviet-bloc East European countries, with which Seoul has no diplomatic ties.

The sports minister said Yugoslavia promised its participation in the Seoul Olympics, in a written pledge, in accordance with the spirit of the Olympic movement. Yugoslavia would also dispatch a fact-finding mission to Seoul in October to review Seoul's Olympic preparations, he added.

Yi said Hungary will send a similar mission to Seoul in June, adding Yugoslavia and Hungary will notify Seoul Olympic organizers of their selection of the Olympic attaches this year.

Meeting With Hungarian Official

SK050040 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Sports Minister Yi Se-ki, now on a tour of three East European countries, met with his Hungarian counterpart, Gabor Deak, in Budapest Tuesday and talked about the Seoul Olympics, a Sports Ministry spokesman reported yesterday.

Deak, who also serves as president of the Hungarian National Olympic Committee, was quoted as telling Minister Yi that Olympics should be back on its track free of boycotts on the occasion of the Seoul Olympics, adding that his country is preparing for full participation in the Seoul games next year.

Minister Yi explained the preparatory works for the Seoul games to Deak and other Hungarian sports leaders, according to the spokesman.

Both sports leaders in the first ministerial level meeting between Korea and Hungary discussed measures for mutual sports exchanges including invitation of Hungarian coaches to Seoul and visit to the East European country by Korean athletes.

GDR NOC PRESIDENT MEETS WITH SLOOC CHAIRMAN

SK061005 Seoul YONHAP in English 0955 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP) -- An East German sports official said Friday that the facilities for the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics are "excellent" and that the preparations for the games are "well under way."

Manfred Ewald, East German sports minister and National Olympic Committee [NOC] president, made the remark in a meeting with Pak Se-chik, chairman of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee [SLOOC].

Ewald said he hopes that the Seoul Olympics will be "magnificently staged" with "peace-loving youths" from throughout the world attending.

While in Seoul, the sports minister, who came here Tuesday night, inspected the Olympic facilities, including the main stadium in eastern Seoul and the regatta course on the outskirts of the Korean capital.

Ewald was accompanied by three officials, including Guenther Heinz, the East German member of the International Olympic Committee.

Before leaving Korea on Sunday, he plans to tour industrial facilities and resorts, and to meet with other sports leaders.

JAPANESE TRADE MISSION TO VISIT ROK 15 MAR

SKO90315 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP) -- A 277-member Japanese trade mission is scheduled to visit Korea March 15-21 to promote economic exchanges and cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

The Japanese mission, which will be the largest ever to visit Korea, will comprise government officials, business and financial leaders, and presidents of influential economic organisations, a Trade and Industry Ministry source said Monday.

It will include Yama Harake, director general of the International Trade and Industry Ministry's International Trade Administration Bureau; Taiichiro Matsuo, chairman of the Marubeni Business Group; Noburu Koto, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Shoichi Akasawa, president of the Japan external trade organisation. As chairman of the Japan-Korea Market Council, Matsuo will lead the mission.

In meetings with Korean Government officials and business leaders, the mission members will discuss ways to boost Japan's capital investments in Korea, to promote the transfer of technologies from Japan to Korea and to increase Japan's imports from Korea, the source said.

They will hold business talks in nine fields, including electric and electronic machines, auto parts, agricultural and marine products, consumer goods (textiles and sundry items), basic materials (steel and chemicals) and investment cooperation.

More than 40 Korean small- and medium-sized industries, as well as leading business groups and their subsidiaries, will take part in the business talks.

The Japanese have a keen interest in procuring Korean-made parts and consumer goods and in investing their capital in the reportedly much improved investment climate here. They are expected to seek out Korean firms to which Japanese firms can transfer technologies through joint ventures, the source said.

A 20-member Japanese investment climate survey team is scheduled to come to Seoul on Monday prior to the mission's arrival here.

The team will comprise representatives of banking institutions (including the Yasuda Trust Bank), leading textile firms (including Genkyu Vinyl Industry Co.), and electric firms (including the Toho Denki Co.), the source added.

NKDP SETS MONDAY DEADLINE FOR ASSEMBLY AGENDA

SKO70123 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] The major opposition New Korea Democratic Party yesterday decided not to participate in a special National Assembly session this month unless rival political parties agree on the agenda of the session by Monday.

The decision was made at a meeting of the party's leading officeholders.

Party spokesman Kim Tae-yong said, "If the ruling Democratic Justice Party insists on resumption of the Special Constitution Revision Committee during the forthcoming Assembly sitting, we will interpret that as meaning it has no intention of opening a parliamentary session this month."

If the rival parties fail to reach an agreement on the agenda of the proposed session by Monday, when floor leaders are to meet, the NKDP will abandon a special Assembly sitting this month, Kim said.

The NKDP demanded that the coming Assembly sitting, if it's to be held this month, be limited to human rights and other issues, excluding talks on constitutional change.

It has proposed that the pivotal constitutional revision issue be primarily settled at a meeting between rival top leaders, instead of the special constitutional panel.

The opposition party is to hold a series of local party reorganization rallies across the country till April 10.

NKDP PLAN FOR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS FIRST REJECTED

SK080114 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party said yesterday that rival political parties should decide the form of the next government before revising the National Assembly election law.

A senior DJP lawmaker said, "The election law is closely related to the government power structure. Unless substantial progress is made on the key issue in current constitutional debates, it is difficult for us to present a specific scheme for revising the law."

The position endorsed in a meeting of major party officeholders is a response to an opposition proposal that the ruling and opposition parties start negotiations over the election law.

Although it has yet to announce a final draft, the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party is said to be calling for the election of one lawmaker in each electoral district.

The minor opposition Korea National Party advocates a medium constituency system under which three to five lawmakers are elected in each district.

The ruling DJP has maintained that it will be able to present its scheme only after rival parties make progress in discussions on the power structure.

In the officeholders' meeting, the government party also reaffirmed that it will continue efforts to open a special Assembly session this month in order to discuss human rights and overall administrative affairs.

It, however, reiterated its position that the opposition NKDP should promise to return to the Special Constitution Revision Committee [SCRC].

The opposition party, on the other hand, maintained that the committee operation should not be linked with the proposed convening of an Assembly session.

The arguments over the SCRC are likely to hamper efforts to convene a special Assembly session this month.

Floor leaders of the rival parties are slated to meet tomorrow in an effort to narrow their differences.

Rep. Yi Han-dong, floor leader of the DJP, said, "There has been no change in our position of seeking to open an Assembly session and to normalize the committee's operation."

He said, however, that his party will not necessarily demand that the SCRC be reactivated at the same time as the opening of an Assembly session.

He said the opposition NKDP should only guarantee that it will return to the committee "at a specified time."

Rep. Kim Hyon-kyu, floor leader of the opposition NKDP, maintained that the Assembly session should be called immediately regardless of whether the SCRC is active.

Reiterating the party's position, Kim said that the party would return to the committee only when the DJP accepts its proposal for talks among "political leaders with real influence."

If the ruling and opposition parties fail to resolve their differences by tomorrow, when the floor leaders are slated to meet, the NKDP will give up hope convening an Assembly session this month, he said.

In yesterday's meeting of major officeholders, the DJP also decided to take a "close look" at developments within the opposition NKDP over the so-called Yi Min-u formula for democratization.

Some specific steps may be announced next month, he added.

BATMONH LAUDS GORBACHEV NUCLEAR ARMS PROPOSAL

OWO50203 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1656 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 4 Mar (MONTSAME) -- At this period when mankind finds itself on the verge of sliding down into nuclear abyss, the Soviet Union, [words indistinct] persistently sets forth numerous mutually acceptable and important proposals and initiatives in the interests of creating a nuclear-free and nonviolent world. Yet another manifestation of this is the statement of the CPSU CC General Secretary M. Gorbachev of 28 February. J. Batmonh, Mongolian party and state leader, has noted at the meeting of the MPR state and party activists on 3 March. He has also said that the Soviet statement includes the proposal to separate the problem of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe from the set of question [as received], and sign a special treaty on it. A positive reaction to this proposal will allow to solve other big problems.

The Soviet Union, J. Batmonh has stressed, has set forth this initiative as another big step towards realising its comprehensive programme for building nuclear-free world. The MPR fully approves and supports M. Gorbachev's initiative aimed at limiting and eliminating nuclear armaments and thus strengthening the foundations of peace and security in Europe and the world over.

Since the USSR and USA have agreed at the Reykjavik summit to eliminate all medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, the whole public has every ground to hope that the USA will adopt a positive approach to the Soviet initiative. This historic chance should not be lost, J. Batmonh has underscored.

DUGERSUREN GREETES GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER

OWO71329 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1719 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 6 Mar (MONTSAME) -- MPR Foreign Minister M. Dugersuren and Foreign Minister of the Hellenic Republic K. Papoulias have exchanged telegrammes of greetings on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The ministers have expressed the hope that Mongol-Greek relations will further develop for the benefit of the two countries, serve the cause of strengthening peace, security and cooperation among nations.

FOURTH MEETING OF FOURTH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OPENS

BK090720 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0630 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] The fourth meeting of the Fourth People's Assembly of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma opened in the People's Assembly conference hall in Rangoon at 1000 today. Present were 480 assembly representatives headed by U San Yu, president and chairman of the State Council.

The morning session was chaired by Colonel Kaung Hla Pru, Rakhine State's Pauktaw Constituency-2, while U Aung Khin Tint, director general of the People's Assembly Office, officiated as secretary of the meeting.

The presiding chairman first announced that of the eligible 483 assembly representatives, 480 were present, representing 99.38 percent attendance. He then announced the meeting to be valid and declared it open.

Next, the chairman read out the agenda for the meeting and obtained the approval of the assembly. He then announced that five seats in the People's Assembly, one seat in the State Council, and a seat in one of the People's Assembly affairs committees were vacant. As the assembly gave its approval, the report was put on record.

This was followed by three new People's Assembly representatives taking the oath of office in the presence of the presiding chairman. The meeting was then recessed to enable the election of the Panel of Chairmen from different states and divisions.

When the meeting resumed, the presiding chairman announced the list of 14 chairmen elected to the panel. The assembly later approved the election when asked by the presiding chairman.

Next, the elected chairmen took the seats reserved for them. The chairman of the morning session, Col Kaung Hla Pru, then handed over his duties to U Saw Hla, representative from Rakhine State's Pauktaw Constituency-1.

Then, U Sein Lwin, secretary of the State Council, presented the report of the State Council. The presiding chairman announced that the assembly will discuss the report on 10 March.

Next, U Maung Kyi, representative from Rangoon Division's Mingaladon Constituency-1, moved a motion that the People's Assembly express condolences for the death of U Aung Sint, State Council member. As the motion was seconded by U Saw Moses of Mon State's Bilin Constituency-2, the presiding chairman announced that the motion had been put on record.

Later, People's Assembly representatives cast secret votes to elect a representative to the vacant seat on the State Council. As U Maung Nyo, representative of Mon State's Kyaikto Constituency-1, received more than half of the votes cast, the presiding chairman announced that U Maung Nyo had been elected State Council member.

The meeting was then recessed.

BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S SIXTH MEETING REPORTED

BK051419 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The sixth meeting of the Burma Socialist Program Party [BSPP] Central Committee opened in the auditorium of the People's Assembly Building at 0900 today. BSPP Chairman U Ne Win presided over the meeting while U Htwe Han, Central Committee secretary, officiated as secretary of the meeting.

The secretary first declared the validity of the meeting and announced it open.

As the meeting began, BSPP General Secretary U Aye Ko presented the report of the Central Executive Committee. This was followed by U Maung Nyo, secretary of the Party Inspection Committee, and U Ba Thein, secretary of the Party Discipline Committee, presenting the reports of their committees.

Next, U Sein Lwin, joint general secretary, reported the BSPP budget estimates, income, and expenditures. Central Committee members approved the report after discussion.

U Thein Ngwe, Central Committee secretary, then reported to the meeting regarding the question of permitting Colonel Hla Maw, Central Committee member, to resign from his responsibilities. The Central Committee decided on the matter after discussions.

Next, U Ba Thein, secretary of the Party Discipline Committee, reported on appeals that had been submitted, and the Central Committee later voted on the appeals.

This was followed by Central Committee members U (Thet Khin), U (La Dan Baw), and Colonel Maung Sint discussing the reports of the Central Executive Committee, the Party Inspection Committee, and the Party Discipline Committee.

The meeting was then recessed for lunch.

When the meeting resumed in the afternoon, U San Yu, BSPP vice chairman, presided over the meeting.

Central Committee members Colonel Sing Kho Win, U Thant Zin, U Kyin Khaing, Daw Mya Thwin, and U Thein Aung Tin then continued discussing the reports of the Central Executive Committee, the Party Inspection Committee, and the Party Discipline Committee.

The meeting ended in the afternoon.

GDR'S FISCHER ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT 7 MAR

BK071216 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1205 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 7 -- A delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the German Democratic Republic arrived here this afternoon for a three-day official friendship visit to Kampuchea.

The delegation, led by Oskar Fischer, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and GDR foreign minister, was welcomed at Pochentong Airport by Kong Korm, member of the Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and minister for foreign affairs; Dit Munti and Bo Rasi, both deputy ministers for foreign affairs; and other Kampuchean officials. Members of diplomatic corps to Kampuchea were also on hand. Later in the day, the GDR guests, accompanied by Foreign Minister Kong Korm, laid wreath at the Monument for the Dead.

Talks Held

BK090604 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Kong Korm, member of the KPRP Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the PRK, and Comrade Oskar Fischer, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the GDR, discussed bilateral relations and other issues during their talks in Phnom Penh on the morning of 8 March. Present at the talks were Comrade Mrs Bo Rasi, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the PRK, and Comrade Rolf Dach, GDR ambassador to Cambodia.

Comrade Oskar Fischer recalled the fruition in all fields of the bilateral cooperation, especially the close relations between the two countries' foreign ministries. He also described all-round development in Germany resulting from the successful implementation of the 11th SED Congress resolutions.

Talking about bilateral relations, Comrade Oskar Fischer stressed that the cooperation between our two parties and countries is the key formula for and driving force behind the powerful development of the relations between Germany and Cambodia. Dealing with international policy, Comrade Oskar Fischer noted that in order to reduce tension and step up the defense against war, it is necessary to further increase bilateral relations of all countries. To bring about detente in Southeast Asia, it is imperative to eliminate confrontation between ASEAN and Indochinese countries. He also expressed vigorous support for the PRK's stand in calling for a political settlement of problems in the region in the interest of the relaxation of tension and firmly supported all statements of the foreign ministers' conferences of the three Indochinese countries. He voiced his respect for the PRK's right to self-determination. In his return remarks, Comrade Kong Korm agreed with all points raised by Comrade Oskar Fischer and stressed that the PRK continues to embark on a foreign policy defined by the resolution of the Fifth KPRP Congress and always wants to establish good relations with all neighboring countries.

Comrade Kong Korm went on to say that the withdrawal of the Vietnamese Volunteer Army will be concluded in 1990 and that national reconciliation is based on the principle of eliminating the genocidal Pol Pot gang, both politically and militarily speaking. He also fully supported the stand of the GDR which always wishes to reduce tension in the world, and affirmed that the close solidarity, friendship, and cooperation among the three Indochinese countries constitute a factor determining the success in each country.

Banquet Held

BK090759 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRK hosted a solemn banquet at the Chamka Mon Presidential Palace at 1800 on 8 March to welcome and honor Comrade Oskar Fischer, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the GDR, who is paying an official friendly visit to the PRK.

During this grand occasion, Comrade Kong Korm, member of the KPRP Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the PRK, made a speech. He said:

[Begin recording] Dear comrades and friends, during the past 8 years under the correct leadership of the KPRP, the Cambodian people have done their best to rebuild their country which was absolutely devastated by the genocidal Pol Pot gang -- underlings of the Chinese expansionist-hegemonists -- and have made pride-inspiring achievements in the political, economic, diplomatic, and other fields. The international prestige of the PAK is soaring with each passing day. These successes cannot be separated from the friendship and solidarity we have with the SRV and LPDR nor from the assistance of fraternal socialist countries, including the GDR. The military victories won along the Cambodian-Thai border during the 1984-85 dry season by the KPRAF in close cooperation with the Vietnamese Volunteer Army over the reactionary Khmer groups once and for all marked the powerful advance of the Cambodian revolution, an advance that no reactionary force can block.

Alongside these various victories, we have been through many new tests that the PRK must fulfill in the defense and reconstruction of the socialist land of Angkor. We have carried out tasks according to the resolutions of the Fifth KPRP Congress, strengthened and developed the gains and significance of the Cambodian revolution at home and in the international arena, and contributed to preserving peace and stability and to the consolidation of the world's socialist system. We have unreservedly supported all Soviet initiatives to preserve peace and stability in Asia and the rest of the world.

The recent Soviet decision to completely scrap the moratorium on nuclear arms tests in response to U.S. stubbornness in carrying on nuclear arms tests constitutes the most appropriate measure to protect the security of the Soviet Union and that of its allies. This shows that the Soviet Union is fully capable in terms of science and technology to hit back at the imperialists.

Together with the SRV and LPDR, the PRK has on many occasions displayed its goodwill to create good neighborly relations with countries in the region, especially with Thailand and China, in order to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation. The PRK declares its readiness to hold talks with opposition individuals or groups or individuals as a step toward national reconciliation on the basis of the elimination of Pol Pot.

The Chinese and ASEAN ruling circles, especially the Thai, have negatively responded to our constructive proposal. They continue to demand that the Vietnamese volunteer forces unilaterally withdraw from Cambodia while providing sanctuary to the Pol Pot remnants and other reactionary Khmer groups, and feeding and supporting the latter, enabling them to carry out sabotage activities against the peaceful life of the Cambodian people in a bid to reverse the Cambodia situation and return Pol Pot to power through the so-called 8-point proposal. We would like to stress once again that the Vietnamese Volunteer troops will be completely pulled out by 1990 when the Cambodian problem will be solved by itself whether there is a political settlement or not.

Dear comrades and friends, the ever-growing all-round fruitful relations of friendship between the PRK and GDR based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism have been defined by the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between our two countries in Berlin by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee, and Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee. The results of the recent visit paid to the PRK by Comrade Horst Soller, vice chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and chairman of the GDR section of the GDR PRK Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, and the ensuing signing of various documents constitute a new development in the relations between our two countries. The current visit by Comrade Oskar Fischer will also further enable these relations to make an important contribution to the defense of peace and security in the region and the world.

The Cambodian people have closely followed the tireless efforts of the GDR to implement all the resolutions of the 11th SED Congress. We wish these efforts more success in further strengthening advanced socialism in Germany and in contributing to the GDR's role among the most active member of the forces fighting for world peace. I am most confident that the close all-round friendship and cooperation between the PRK and GDR will be more developed and strengthened and will contribute more effectively to peace and socialism.

Please, comrades, let us raise a toast to the health of our two leaders, Comrade Erich Honecker and Comrade Heng Samrin, to the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples, and to the health of Comrade Oskar Fischer and colleagues and of all comrades present here. [applause] [end recording]

In his return speech, Comrade Oskar Fischer said: [Begin recording in German fading into Cambodian translation]

Dear Cambodian comrades and friends, first of all allow me to express deep thanks to you for your warm welcome. Since the first hour, you have shown me and my delegation nothing but cordiality and friendship. I have just arrived in your beautiful country, but I have personally witnessed the remarkable achievements and excellent development of the PRK. The Cambodian working people under the leadership of the KPRP are working hard to overcome the bitter legacy of past regimes and to successfully build the foundations for a new regime permeated with humanity, namely a socialist regime.

We are filled with joy to see that the resolutions of the Fifth KPRP Congress, which set the line for advance along the revolutionary path, are being implemented with enthusiasm. During the past 8 years since the birth of the people's power -- a very short time in historical terms -- the Cambodian revolution has won great successes in all fields. It is my belief that thanks to the force of the people and to international solidarity, all attempts by the counterrevolutionaries to undermine the PRK are to fail and will fail in the future. I would like to warmly hail all the gains you have won during the rebirth of the Cambodian nation and the success you have made in expanding the people's power. The people of the GDR are happy with and appreciative of the successful line followed by the fraternal Cambodian people. The people of the GDR have forged close solidarity with the Cambodian people.

Our countries are thousands of kilometers away from each other but, because of our common goal and the struggle for peace, socialism, and happiness of nations, our two countries seem to be close to each other. Our two countries share a time-honored tradition of struggle against imperialism. Because of its own history, the GDR recognizes how important solidarity is to people and the GDR now contributes to solidarity.

To date, we have actively supported the struggle to recover the PRK's legitimate rights and we support all constructive proposals for a political settlement of issues related to Cambodia. In this effort, we coordinate our efforts with all forces of good-will.

The GDR supports the policy of constructive negotiations pursued by the three Indochinese countries and their vigorous efforts to establish a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia. I highly appreciate these political principles which constitute an effective contribution to the implementation of the socialist community's strategy of peace. In the face of the dangerous international situation created by the policy of aggression and permanent confrontation advocated by imperialism, especially by the insistence to carry on the Star Wars program, the defense of peace has become an essential duty. We fully support all the major proposals of the Soviet Union in Reykjavik and Vladivostok to cleanse our planet of all nuclear arms and secure peaceful coexistence for all nations. The GDR fully supports the Soviet Union's policy.

I am most satisfied to note that our bilateral relations are improving steadily and have reached a high level. The second conference of the GDR-PRK Commission for Economic Cooperation indicated a remarkable growth of goods exchange and took effective measures to implement the agreement on cooperation in rubber production, which is an important economic project for our two countries. The strengthening of our relations benefits the consolidation of socialism in all fields as well as the consolidation of unity and consensus of fraternal countries. Firm socialism means peace. In this context, I propose a toast to the consolidation of fraternal friendship and close cooperation between our two parties, governments, and peoples, to the health of the comrade general secretaries of the SED and KPRP Central Committees, namely Comrade Erich Honecker and Comrade Heng Samrin, and to the health of Comrade Kong Korm. [applause] [end recording]

The ceremony proceeded in an atmosphere of joy, solidarity, and warm friendship.

HENG SAMRIN SPEAKS AT YOUTH CONGRESS

Part One

BK071215 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1252 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 6 -- Following is the full text of the speech delivered by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PRPK [KPRP] at the second congress of the PRYUK [People's Revolutionary Youth Union of Kampuchea].

Distinguished local and foreign guests, dear comrades and friends:

On behalf of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, I would like to welcome the Second Congress of the PRYUK, the congress of the heroic youth who volunteer to defend and construct the Kampuchean motherland towards socialism.

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the 300 eminent delegates, and through you, my most ardent love to all union members and youths and to all Young Pioneers.

I would like to express my warm greetings to the heroic mothers who have given birth to, brought up and sacrificed their beloved sons and daughters to our motherland. My greetings also go to representatives of various services, organizations and localities.

I also would like to extend my warm greetings to international youth delegations, youth delegations from fraternal countries, to the ambassadors and foreign guests who are present here on this solemn occasion.

My warmest greetings also go to representatives of the Vietnamese Volunteer Army and experts who have been away from their homeland and families and come here to share with us difficulties and sacrifices for the life and happiness of the Kampuchean people and youth.

Dear comrades and friends, the PRPK has originated from the Communist Party of Indochina founded by President Ho Chi Minh, since its foundation and through different periods of revolutionary struggle our party has always paid special attention to the mobilization of the youth. Over the past 30 years, our party has led, organized, and tempered generations of revolutionary youth in overcoming all difficulties and hardships, thus scoring outstanding achievements in the revolutionary cause. These achievements have testified to the younger generations' unlimited loyalty to our people and motherland.

Following the historic victory on January 7, 1979, which brought an end to the genocidal horror, our party decided to reestablish the PRYUK to meet the new demands of the revolution and the ardent aspiration of the young people approved the unions' provisional statute, and appointing its provisional central committee.

Since then, revolutionary movements have [been] widely launched among the youth and children, including the "three excellents" movement among the youth, and "the many good deeds movement" among the Young Pioneers. Through these movements, the union has educated and encouraged the vast majority of young people to make great contributions to the defence and construction of our motherland.

Thanks to the education by the party and care by the new regime, our young generation, of which the core is played by the members of the PRYUK, has demonstrated its best qualities -- intelligence and creativeness. [Having] inherited the heroic tradition of our nation it is standing firm on the fronts of national defence and construction.

Regarding security and military fields the union members and young people of all strata have promoted their sense of responsibility in defending the country, voluntarily carrying out their military duties, [and] participating in building up the armed forces.

They have demonstrated their courage in combat and in combat support activities, and stood shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese Volunteer Army in defeating all enemies, defended our frontiers, prevented the Pol Pot remnants from infiltrating into the interior, persuaded misled people to return to the revolution, maintained security in hamlets and villages, defended the people's peaceful and happy life, the revolutionary power and the militant solidarity between Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos.

In social and economic fields, our youth have brought into full play their role as the shock force in combating natural calamities and the enemies. Youth union members in agricultural and industrial establishments, in the services of goods distribution and circulation, transport, public health, education and in the security force and administrative bodies have actively contributed to stepping up the production and gradually stabilizing the people's life.

Members of the youth union and association in schools have endeavored to study so as to contribute to building a system of socialist schools. The youth's culture, scientific and technical levels have now been raised.

Many exemplary models have emerged from the youth's efforts and contributions to developing the military, security, economic and social fields, a number of members have been awarded the "hero" and other titles.

On the work of building the youth union, though the PRYUK was reorganized recently, it has made great efforts in organizing, education and mobilizing the youth to carry out all revolutionary tasks assigned by the party. Youth committees at all levels, from the central to provincial and municipal levels, have paid attention to consolidating the grass-roots organizations, thus reducing the number of weak organizations, expanding the union organizations, improving the members quality, and training a contingent of cadres tempered and grown up through the youth movements. There are no more than 50,000 union members being engaged in combat or other activities in hamlets, villages, factories, enterprises, hospitals, schools, public offices and the armed forces.

The youth union has trained and recommended many outstanding members to the party, and supplied many young cadres for the administrations at all levels and various services. Many union members so far have participated in voicing their opinions and criticizing party members and the leadership of the local party committees.

Under the guidance of the PRYUK and the RYAK [Revolutionary Youth Association of Kampuchea], the Kampuchea Young Pioneers Organization was set up and the Pioneers movements has been constantly developed. At present, it has more than 450,000 members. The "three goods" emulation movement now called the "many good deeds" movement has attracted hundreds of thousands of children and many outstanding cases have emerged from their study, social work, combat, production, practicing thrift, maintaining social laws and orders and cleaning up the city. Thousands of beyond-age members have been recommended to the PRYUK.

Our party and people take great pride in our young generation and highly value their immense contributions and brilliant achievements in the past years. The present Kampuchean young generation has been carrying forward the revolutionary tradition of their brothers and fathers, standing in the van of the resolute struggle against our enemies to safeguard the revolutionary gains and build the country towards socialism, and enthusiastically taking part in the emulation movement for the successful implementation of the resolutions of the fifth party congress.

On behalf of the central committee of the PRPK, I would like to warmly commend our youth in the Armed Forces, our young workers, peasants, intellectuals, young people of the ethnic groupings and our children through the country.

I would also like to commend all party committees, branches and mass organizations for their active contributions to mobilizing and educating the youth, the future generation of our country.

We would like to extend my sincere commendation and boundless confidence and affection to the young Vietnamese Army volunteers and experts, our friends in weal and woe who always stand by our side in our struggle in spite of all hardships and sacrifices, fulfilling their noble internationalist obligations.

On this occasion, we would like to express my deepest gratitude to the parties, governments, and peoples of Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries as well as to progressive nations for their support for the just cause of Kampuchean people and youth.

Dear comrades, we have entered the year of 1987, the second year of the implementation of the resolutions of the fifth party congress and our first five-year state programme. It is also the year in which we will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Great Russian October Revolution. The brilliant success of the 27th CPSU Congress has paved the way for a new current, a current of all-round renovation in socialist countries for the interest of national strength and the happiness of the Soviet people and the socialist community as a whole, and for peace and existence of all nations.

The success of the 4th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the 6th CPV Congress have opened up a new development in the revolutionary movements of the two fraternal countries, and strengthened the militant solidarity among the three socialist countries on the Indochinese peninsula.

Over the past 8 years, the Kampuchean revolution has successively scored achievements. The fifth party congress defined the strategic tasks of our revolution that is to firmly defend the national independence and step by step build the Kampuchean fatherland through transitional period towards socialism. The congress also affirmed that our revolution is an integral part of the world revolution. We have just come out from the genocidal disaster, which is why we greatly cherish peace and wish to build Kampuchea into an independent, peaceful, abundant and happy country in accordance with the progressive trend in the world so as to make our people enjoy their rights to freedom and mastery, to ensure our national independence and advance toward socialism.

We warmly welcome and resolutely support the tireless goodwill and principled efforts of the Soviet Union as clearly expounded in various statements such as the one made at Vladivostok by Comrade Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev and the New Delhi Declaration. We fully support the new important peace initiative, made by Comrade General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on February 28, 1987, which has demonstrated the Soviet Union's high sense of responsibility toward the destiny of mankind.

We resolutely support the heroic struggles of the peoples in Nicaragua, El Salvador and other Central American countries and the Caribbean and the frontline African countries, of the Palestinian and other Middle East people against the U.S. imperialists intervention and aggression, against the South African reactionaries apartheid and the Israeli reactionaries Zionism.

Together with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Lao People's Democratic Republic, we are always ready to find a political solution for the Kampuchea problem through negotiations between countries and parties concerned. We are ready to normalize relations with our neighbors and to cooperate with the ASEAN and other countries in the region in order to make Southeast Asia a region of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation.

However, the expansionist and hegemonists, the reactionaries within the Thai ruling circles, and their stooge — the genocidal Pol Potists and other Khmer reactionaries — stubbornly stick to their schemes of undermining the Kampuchean revolution.

In their weakening position, the enemies have resorted to all treacherous designs, including psychological warfare, in an attempt to create illusions to break the fighting spirit of our people, to incite the narrow national mindedness and encourage the decadent life style so as to degenerate our youth, split our ranks and break the solidarity between Kampuchea and Vietnam. Therefore, our revolutionary struggle against the enemies is a protracted, resolute and complicated one.

We have to strengthen our overwhelming posture in the border regions as well as the interior in order to achieve with success our 5-year programme of socio-economic restoration and development (1986-1990) and the three strategic targets as defined by the fifth party congress that is to smash all attempts of insurrection of the genocidal Pol Pot clique and the Khmer reactionaries: to strengthen the revolutionary forces and constantly consolidate the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Laos special alliance and our relationship with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries.

Part Two

BK090415 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0432 GMT 7 Mar 87

["Heng Samrin's Speech (Part 2)" -- SPK headline]

[Text] [dateline not given] The line put forth by the fifth party congress charts a path that conforms with the ideals and aspirations of our people and youth.

The youth is our future, our hope. It is the generation of successors who are going to hold high the banner of the party until final victory.

As was stressed in the resolutions of the fifth party congress, the union must encourage the young people to set the pace and take the lead in the revolutionary movement of the masses, foster revolutionary virtues, adopt a simple mode of life, be hard-working, practice thrift, remain close to the people, and develop international solidarity. The defense of the fatherland is a sacred cause and overriding obligation of all young men and women. It is imperative that they understand the maneuvers and schemes of the enemy, develop the heroic traditions of the nation, and stand ready to honor their military service and enlist voluntarily in the armed forces. The union at all levels must find appropriate methods of education and mobilization in each branch of activities in order to help the young people to carry out this work well. Each branch of activities, each unit of production, and each educational establishment must implant in young people's minds a sense of responsibility and conscience about observing the state's law on military service, raise their sense of organization and discipline in military training and in general education, and turn into general practice the implementation of this law of the state in order to fulfill the quantitative as well as qualitative needs of each call to service.

By paying great attention to the young generation through each stage of the revolution, our party has defined the leading line, orientations, and tasks for the young people. Each resolution of the party on youth work corresponds with each historic stage of the nation and the party, bears a characteristic and importance conforming with the law of objectivity, and reflects the new stage's strategic tasks to advance the revolution of our country.

The resolutions of the fifth party congress defined the goals and orientations of the work concerning the youth in the new stage. They reflect the points of view of the party concerning this work.

Our party believes that this work toward the youth has a special importance given the fact that the youth -- a great social force -- is a vanguard revolutionary force, a reserve force worthy of the trust of the party. To successfully carry out this work is to ensure victory at the present as well as in the radiant future of our country and bring about the blossoming of the Cambodian generation.

Carrying out the work of mobilizing the youth is in reality teaching communism to the youth as pointed out in the resolutions of the fifth party congress: "The youth union is a school of communism for the youth." The union must therefore educate and train young people so as to turn them into vanguard workers who execute the tasks of the revolution and, with absolute loyalty, carry on the revolutionary cause of the party and nation.

The front and the various other mass organizations, such as the trade union and the women's association, must [word indistinct] for the building and development of their own organizational system. Groups of workers, social organizations -- especially the schooling establishments -- and the family assume an important part of the responsibility for educating and training the youth.

The first congress of the union, held in 1956, was regarded by the party as taking place at a time when the revolution in our country was in a period full of tests and trials.

After 30 years of struggle and building, the young Cambodian generation, together with the entire people, won the historic victory. The current second congress of the union takes place at a time when our people and youth are enthusiastically competing with each other in work and combat in order to successfully implement the resolutions of the fifth party congress.

For the immediate future, despite many difficulties, the force of our revolution is more powerful than ever and no reactionary forces can block the advance of our revolution. That is the force of our nation, a force which, combined with that of the present time, has become invincible.

MEAN SAM-AN ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MEETING

BK071418 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1156 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 7 -- A solemn meeting was held in Phnom Penh Saturday morning to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the International Women's Day.

Addressing the meeting, Mean Sam-An, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the Association of Revolutionary Women of Kampuchea, said: "Our Kampuchean women, together with the Vietnamese and Lao women, as well as women throughout the world ardently desire more than ever to live in peace. We wish to have freindship, mutual understanding and cooperation with women in all countries, particularly the neighbouring countries such as Thailand and other ASEAN members.

On this occasion, I warmly acclaim, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Women of Kampuchea, the declaration made by Comrade M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, on the programme of a total and complete elimination of nuclear arms before the year 2000, and the New Delhi Declaration by the Republic of India and the Soviet Union.

All these documents of historic importance constitute constructive initiatives and common effort for the cause of peace. I would like to express my gratitude to the Indian Government for its sentiments towards the People's Republic of Kampuchea and its aid and assistance to the Kampuchean people.

The Kampuchean women firmly support the appeal made by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to all legislative organisations and peoples throughout the world, and are determined to strengthen the ties of friendship with the women of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries as well as those who love peace and justice and are struggling for a new nuclear-free world.

In concert with the peace forces and movement in the world, the Kampuchean women vehemently condemn the Reagan administration's bellicose policy of stepping up the arms race, its "Star Wars" programme included, which has aggravated world tension and threatened peace and security.

We also condemn the U.S. imperialists, in collusion with Beijing expansionist-hegemonists, and other international reactionary forces, particularly the ultra-rightist ruling circles in Thailand, for helping and supporting Khmer reactionary groups in their opposition to the revival of the Kampuchean people, thus causing insecurity in Southeast Asia.

On this occasion I would like to thank the women of Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, and the international humanitarian organizations for their support and assistance to Kampuchea.

The meeting adopted a resolution voicing full support for the statement made on January 15, 1986 by CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev, and energetically condemning the U.S. imperialists' bellicose policy.

It also called upon world public opinion, including those in Western countries, to pressure the Reagan administration to put an immediate end to the arms race and nuclear tests.

It also vehemently condemned the imperialists in collusion with hegemonists and other reactionary forces for their support for the Khmer reactionaries to sabotage the revival of the Kampuchean people. The resolution reaffirmed the Kampuchean determination to tirelessly struggle for peace on this planet.

SAY PHUTHANG VISITS CIGARETTE FACTORY PERSONNEL

BK050645 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] On 3 March, Comrade Say Phuthang, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the Central Control Commission, and vice chairman of the Council of State of the PRK, visited cadres, personnel, and workers at the national cigarette factory in order to discuss the general situation, any problems they might have, and facilities at the factory.

Speaking during this visit, Comrade Say Phuthang hailed and highly valued the feats and achievements made by the national cigarette factory. He also spoke about the role and duties of the workers, particularly in building the working class into a vanguard class in the revolutionary cause. The comrade exhorted cadres, personnel, and workers in the factory to strive to produce cigarettes, fulfill, and even overfulfill the production plan in order to contribute to successfully fulfilling the 2d year of the first 5-year socio-economic restoration and development plan. He also told them to mobilize forces to work in the localities in order to strengthen and increase the core cadres, help solve living conditions for the workers, and disseminate the party line and general knowledge among the workers. This is in order to enhance the workers' knowledge, thereby facilitating control of the economy.

SHEVARDNADZE ARRIVES IN VIENTIANE 8 MAR

BK081225 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] In response to the invitation of the LPRP Central Committee and the LPDR Government, Comrade Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, arrived in the Capital of Vientiane at 1500 [0800 GMT] on 8 March for a formal visit to the LPDR.

Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze and his delegation were warmly and cordially welcomed at Wattai Airport by Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister of the LPDR; Comrade Sali Vongkhamdao, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Comrade Khambou Sounisai, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality; Comrade Khamphai Boupha, member of the party Central Committee and deputy foreign minister; and many other ministers, deputy ministers, and senior cadres.

The delegation was also welcomed at the airport by Comrade Yuriy Mikheyev, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; Comrade Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; Comrade Nguon Phansiphon, PRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; and advisers and senior officials of various embassies in Laos.

Banquet Held

BK090500 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Yesterday evening [8 March] Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign affairs minister of the LPDR, held a banquet in Vientiane capital honor of visiting Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign affairs minister of the USSR, and his delegation which is paying an official friendship visit to the LPDR. Attending the banquet as guests of honor on this occasion were Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and acting president of the republic; Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, secretary of the party committee of Vientiane municipality, and minister of interior; Comrade Sali Vongkhamdao, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, minister, and chairman of the State Planning Committee; and Comrade Yuriy Mikheyev, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Laos; along with many other high-ranking Lao and foreign cadres.

At the banquet which proceeded in an atmosphere of profound friendship, Comrade Phoun Sipaseut delivered a speech. He said: [begin Phoun Sipaseut recording] Today, my wife and I are very pleased to have the honor of welcoming Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union, and his wife, together with the delegation members who have traveled from the country of great Lenin to the Lao people of various tribes, solidarity and close friendship from the fraternal Soviet people. This visit to Laos by Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze is very encouraging to the revolutionary spirit of our Lao people of various tribes in implementing the two strategic tasks, namely the defense of the country and the building of socialism.

At the same time, the visit takes place at a time while the people of various fraternal socialist countries as well as all progressive people in the world are, together with the Soviet people, preparing to welcome the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution -- the event of great, historic significance to the revolutionary movements and laboring people throughout the world.

The Lao people are elated at the great achievements scored by the heroic fraternal Soviet people over the past 70 years. The glorious success of the 27th CPSU Congress marks a turning point for the perfecting of socialism in the Soviet Union. That success is profoundly significant. The implementation of the resolutions of the said historic congress and the plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee in January 1987 have reiterated and further brought into full play in depth the strategic orientation as put forth by the congress. As a result, the theoretical sense toward socialism has been richened. Comprehensive plans on the broadening of democracy in the Soviet society in the next stage have also been adopted.

We have always fully supported the principled foreign policy of the Soviet party and state as approved by the 27th CPSU Congress and the tireless efforts and various initiatives to put and end to the arms race and doing away with the danger of nuclear war for peace and security of various nations. The Lao people of various tribes, as well as progressive mankind throughout the world, have wholeheartedly welcomed and supported the Soviet proposal as announced by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev on 15 January 1986 for an elimination of all types of nuclear weapons in the world and the proposal of 8 February 1987 on the prompt signing of a separate agreement on medium-range missiles. We have also supported the appropriate stand and creative ideas of the Soviet Union in the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Reykjavik. The statement of 28 July 1986 issued by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok as well as the New Delhi declaration are considered significant documents to guarantee the security and peaceful cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean.

Beloved Comrade: Over the past 11 years, under the leadership of the LPRP headed by Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, the Lao people of various tribes have scored great achievements in many fields in the cause of defending the country and building socialism. Our entire Lao party and people of various tribes are enthusiastically implementing the various orientations and tasks adopted by the fourth congress of our LPRP. The party, state, and people of Laos sought to consolidate and strengthen the militant relations, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation with the fraternal peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia and regard these as the principle for the development of the revolution of each country.

We highly appreciate the glorious achievements of the Cambodian people and fully support their just cause as well as the correct policy of national concord pursued by the PRK on the basis of the elimination of the genocidal Pol Pot clique. The LPDR, like the SRV and the PRK, has consistently shown the earnest aspiration to establish good-neighborly relations with the countries in Southeast Asia through negotiations as proposed in the 12th and 13th conferences of the foreign ministers of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia with a view to settling various remaining problems in the region, including the Cambodian problem, so as to turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

With our good intentions which conform with the common trend for peace and detente, we have held talks and continue to hold talks with the PRC to restore and normalize the relations between the two countries on the basis of the respect of each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality, and mutual benefit.

Simultaneously, we have held talks and will continue to meet and hold talks with the Kingdom of Thailand to improve and normalize bilateral relations on the basis of the Lao-Thai joint statements of January and April 1979.

The Lao people fully support the struggle of the various nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America for peace, national independence, and development in opposition to imperialism and various reactionary powers.

Respected Eduard Shevardnadze, over the years, the Lao-Soviet relations of friendship, solidarity, and all-round cooperation have been incessantly consolidated and enhanced on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism. The Lao party, state, and people consider their friendship relations and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union as the core of the foreign policy of Laos and a significant factor for the growth and development of the Lao revolution. The meeting between Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR, and Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, marked a historic milestone and serves as a basis for the fruitful strengthening of the friendship relations and all-round cooperation between our two parties, states, and peoples. All the victories of the Lao revolution in the past as well as present cannot be separated from the precious and effective support and assistance of the party, state, and fraternal people of the Soviet Union.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Lao party, state, and people of various tribes, I would like to express profound gratitude to the party, state, and fraternal people of the Soviet Union for their support and assistance. We are firmly convinced that the Soviet Union will continue to support and assist us in pursuing realistic measures to achieve cooperation in the economic, scientific, and technical fields between Laos and the Soviet Union and to help the Lao people of various tribes build the foundations of socialism and defend their revolutionary gains. We are convinced that this visit to Laos by Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze will serve to vigorously enhance the traditionally fine relations that have been built and nurtured by our two parties, states, and peoples. This visit is also a significant contribution to the consolidation of peace and stability in Indochina and Southeast Asia. We pledge to do our best to fruitfully develop the relations between Laos and the Soviet Union, between the three Indochinese countries and the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries for the benefits of our two countries, for the growth and strength of the socialist community, and for the revolutions and peace throughout the world. [applause] [end recording]

Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze then made a reply speech. He said: I appreciate the fine words of the Lao saying expressed to welcome us. After hearing, it is necessary to see, and after seeing, it is necessary to understand. We have heard about Laos, which is why we wanted to see it. And now that we have seen it we clearly understand the fact that the peoples of our two countries are faithful friends who have maintained the same sense toward the struggle for a great victory of the socialist ideals and for peace and progress. Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev has said in this regard that our cooperation has been developed on the firm basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. This cooperation has been developed in many forms resulting from the meetings and talks between Comrade Gorbachev and Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan and between our top-level leaders.

On our trip to Vientiane we travelled a great distance. Of course we were exhausted, but our exhaustion disappeared immediately after we saw your old-age capital which is known as the mother of the Mekong River. This feeling comes when among true friends, and particularly when we have been accorded a sincere welcome such as that given by our Lao friends. The feeling of hospitality has created a convenient atmosphere for working.

We believe that although we have only a short time here, we will be able to exchange views on the details which are needed to meet the especially vigorous requirements in the present stage of development of our two countries.

Last year was a year of historic significance for our two peoples. It was the year in which the 27th CPSU Congress and the Fourth LPRP Congress were held. In the Soviet Union, wide attention has been paid to the top-level meeting of your party. This is because we understand that the meeting approved a significant, strategic resolution for the future of the country. The new changes in the daily life of the Lao people in your country have explicitly shown that the firm roots of socialism have gone deep in the land of the Lao nation. Your achievements in building socialism are considered as our common victory.

As you comrades know, our country is also carrying out a revolutionary reform with broad significance for our society. This project was put forth in the 27th CPSU Congress and was concretized in the plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee in January. At present, the strategy of accelerated development of the Soviet Union in the socioeconomic field as well as in the all-round reform of the social life has been put into actual practice in all domains. The basic purpose is to extensively develop democracy in order to use it as an overall potential of socialism. I would like to note that we began to perform this task not from the basic level, but on the basis of the past achievements and victories of the Soviet people. In the year of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, we have shown through actual practice that socialism is growing and developing on its own basis and that it provides methods of settlement with higher quality than those under the democratic forms of capitalism. We support the development of democracy in international relations with the participation of all states on the basis of equality. Regarding this, Comrade Gorbachev has stressed that we are making efforts to step up the reform of world politics. The basic purpose of the foreign policy strategy of the USSR is to maintain a nuclear-free world and a world without war and fear and to create a good opportunity for mankind not only to survive, but to enjoy an overall security so that each nation can build a happy life.

We have done everything possible to publicize the new political views. We regard the settlement of disputes and attacks between two systems through cold war or even conventional war as unacceptable. It is necessary to reject the use of force and confrontation. This idea is appropriate for a settlement of regional problems. It is regrettable that lately the imperialist circles, first and foremost the United States, have been trying to turn the Asia-Pacific region into a region of military and political confrontation with various socialist states. The Soviet Union and other socialist states in Asia have opposed the aforementioned policy to worsen the situation. We have supported talks to develop cooperation among various states in this part of the world on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

In Laos, we especially feel that various countries in the region want a high level of tranquillity and peace. The fierce war in the past 30 years has left behind serious scars. For this reason, the Lao people have struggled consistently to do away with the dangers threatening our common home. Together with other peace-loving forces, Laos has contributed to the struggle for a nuclear-free world and for peace without weapons in outer space. Laos' voice has been resoundingly heard in talks among nations that support and respect our Lao friends' opinion. Your country's position regarding many complex issues of the present era has heightened Laos' prestige. The Soviet Union highly values Laos' unchanging support for initiatives to ensure a bright situation in the world and at establishing a comprehensive international security order covering Asia as well. This line of thinking is reflected by Laos' position toward the New Delhi statement which is composed of principled issues that can and will be a guiding compass for various big and small Asian states along the path toward their common security.

We unite with Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia, which are trying to promote a broadened meeting with various ASEAN countries in order to turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace, friendship, stability, and cooperation. Laos' lofty opinion is that Asia's great river -- the Mekong River -- must be for bringing together, not for keeping apart. For this reason, we accept Laos' efforts to normalize relations with China, Thailand, and other countries. In this spirit, we maintain that the firm singlemindedness of the three Indochinese states -- Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia -- will ensure their success in the next stage in building socialism and in consolidating peace in Southeast Asia as well as in Asia.

May success in this great cause belong to you. May the comrades present here as well as the Lao people enjoy peace, happiness, and prosperity.

Talks Held

BK091229 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs of the LPDR, met and held talks with Comrade Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, in Vientiane this morning [9 March].

Present at the meeting and talks on the Lao side were Comrade Sali Vongkhamsoo, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of Council of Ministers, and chairman of the State Planning Committee, and many deputy ministers and senior cadres concerned.

Comrade Yuriy Mikheyev, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, was also present.

At this meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of fraternal cordiality, the two sides informed each other of their domestic situations, exchanged views on international issues, and observed and assessed bilateral relations and cooperation in the past. They also discussed ways to make bilateral relations and cooperation more effective.

On the morning of the same day, Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze laid a wreath of the monument to revolutionary combatants. He was accompanied by Comrade Phoun Sipaseut.

COMMENTARY SCORES U.S.-THAI 'COLLUSION'

BK081149 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Unattributed commentary: "Paying Lip Service to Detente While One's Acts Show One Is Going Deeper Along the Path of Confrontation"]

[Text] The world is currently in a period of fierce struggle between justice and injustice through various forms. The aim of the justice side is for peace and all mankind to live in peace under blue skies without the threat of a devastating war. The injustice side's struggle is for one's might and controlling the world so that one can plunder weaker nations to enrich himself. Public opinion has increasingly condemned the tricks and schemes of those representing the injustice side and unmasked their cruel nature with each passing day, particularly the U.S. Administration's project to dominate the planet in accordance with the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative [SDI] plan that will lead to the introduction of nuclear weapons into outer space.

To win military superiority over the Soviet Union, parallel with the implementation of its SDI or "Star Wars" program, the United States has stepped up activities to create tensions in various regions throughout the world. It has incessantly produced and tested nuclear weapons; supported international terrorism, racism, and Zionism; allied with various counterrevolutionary reactionary forces; and opposed Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism.

In 1987 alone, in addition to twice conducting nuclear testing, the United States has on many occasions organized military exercises threatening various regions, including the "Team Spirit-87" exercise in the Korean peninsula and the so-called "Valiant Usher Sea Siam-1" in Thailand, which was organized 100 km from the Cambodian border with the participation of tens of thousands of members of the U.S. and Thai armed forces -- the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Faced with such a situation, the PRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement solemnly condemning this act and regarding it as a provocation and hostility against the PRK as well as all Indochinese countries. The statement solemnly stressed:

Thai authorities have always nurtured their pan-Thaism ambitions to grab Cambodian territory and acted as a pawn for imperialism, reactionary forces, and hegemonism.

Thanks to their stubborn and warlike nature the U.S. imperialists have hindered talks with the Soviet Union to reduce arms and eliminate nuclear weapons. They have spread fact-distorting statements to conceal their dark intentions and throw the blame on the Soviet Union.

In Southeast Asia, the United States, in collusion with the expansionists and hegemonists, has pushed ASEAN to confront with the Indochinese countries, raising the Cambodian problem as a condition. As for the ASEAN grouping, the most active country openly serving schemes of the U.S. imperialists and the expansionists and hegemonists is Thailand, which has in words talked about detente and negotiations while in deeds stepped up tension. This can be seen from the following: After the holding of meetings and talks between the two sides' high-level technical delegations in late November last year, events have taken place, affecting the improvement of the bilateral relations -- the construction of a war weapons stockpile in Thailand, propaganda campaigns accusing Vietnamese troops in Laos of killing the Mong tribal people, violations of Lao territory by L-19 aircraft in Savannakhet Province, and the joint Thai-U.S. military exercise called "Valiant Usher Sea Siam-1." It was also reported recently that the United States will supply 40 M-49 tanks worth \$47 million along with ammunition and radio and other equipment to Thailand. The above acts constitute a danger to peace and do not promote the improvement of the good neighborly, fraternal relations between the two countries as well as between Thailand and its neighbors in Indochina.

Toward the SRV, the Thai ultrarightists have repeatedly stated that Vietnam is a danger threatening Thailand's security. Stories on Vietnamese intrusions have been constantly fabricated to conceal their crimes in supporting the Cambodian reactionaries so that they can oppose the Cambodian people. For example, on 28 February they fabricated the story that about 100 Vietnamese soldiers had intruded 3 km into Thai territory in Ubon Ratchathani Province to seize a position. Regarding this, VNA has issued a statement rejecting it.

Toward Cambodia, Bangkok has supported the Cambodian reactionaries in carrying out sabotage activities against the legal government of Cambodia and in brazenly and openly opposing the revival efforts of the people in that country. The current closing of the Khao I-dang refugee camp is to move the Cambodian refugees in the camp to reinforce the Cambodian reactionaries' bases along the Cambodian-Thai border as they have done since 1979.

This is to force the refugees to join the remnants of the routed Pol Pot group and other Cambodian reactionaries in order to oppose the Cambodian people.

Bangkok has also pretended to be an activist in seeking so-called ways to settle the Cambodian problem through political means. It in fact wants to revive the Pol Pot host or the so-called Democratic Kampuchea government which has been punished by the Cambodian people. It is the Cambodian people who will settle the Cambodian problem.

On 4 March, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, commander in chief of the Thai army, said in his history-distorting speech on the occasion of the Thai National Defense Volunteer Day, accusing Chao Anouvong, a former Lao heroic and patriotic king, who led the Lao people to rise up to struggle for their independence and freedom and for removing the Siamese feudalists' occupation yoke of oppression and exploitation of being a rebel. Regarding this, the scrupulous Thai intellectuals should understand well that Chao Anouvong's action was correct and just and was truly for the interests and rights of the Lao people. In the history of Thailand itself, there were struggle movements against foreign feudalism occupation to win independence as well. This is an objective law. It is natural that fish are comfortable in cold water but die in hot water. Wherever there is pressure, there is bound to be counterpressure: wherever there is exploitation, there is bound to be struggle. We prefer to die rather than be enslaved; and we prefer to fight to the death rather than allow the country to die.

The Lao and Thai peoples always want to have good relations and to coexist in peace without challenge and threats. The LPDR's unchanged stand with regard to the question of improving Lao-Thai relations is that the Lao side always adheres to the two joint communiques signed in 1979.

The Lao side has never challenged, provoked, invaded, or interfered in other countries' affairs. Ancient history can prove this. All Lao people adhere to the principle of morality. Laos has been a nation with civilization since ancient times. In coping with challenge and provocations committed by the Thai side, Laos has tried to practice restraint and not to use violence to counter it. It has always sought every way possible to settle problems in a peaceful and fair manner on the basis of negotiations.

While talking about promoting friendship, and while some work units concerned of the two sides are carrying out activities under a good atmosphere, many incidents unfavorable to the improvements of good bilateral relations have taken place as a result of actions taken by authorities in the Bangkok ruling circles. These actions run counter to the fine statements that the Thai Government is willing to negotiate with Laos and will do its best to improve the Lao-Thai relations as soon as possible. Considering their outward appearance and form, it looks like they are truly serious; but the Lao-Thai talks are in fact making no progress and do not seem to advance on the path of quick settlement, which the Lao and Thai peoples, particularly those living on both banks of the Mekong River and those who have exchanged visit and trade, are longing for.

BOMB THREAT AGAINST FRENCH MINISTER REPORTED

BK080905 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 8 Mar 87 pp 1, 16

[Text] During the night of 6 March and early morning of 7 March many people were surprised by the flurry of activity at Don Muang Airport by members of the Air Force Special Operations Unit and air force military policemen. MATICHON learned that the activities were part of the alert which arose from a telephone by a man, with an Arabic accent, threatening to explode a bomb at the airport to kill the French foreign minister who was scheduled to stop over at the airport for 1 hour enroute to Japan, transiting through Beijing. The plane with the minister aboard was scheduled to arrive at Don Muang Airport at 0350 [Local time; 2050 GMT] on 7 March from India and leave at 0450. The caller reportedly phoned his threat to the French Embassy in Bangkok to say that a bomb will explode at Dong Muang Airport as the French foreign minister arrives to kill him. The embassy informed the security office at the airport, the police, and the Air Force in order to jointly search the airport. Because the target of the threat was a major official, the Air Force Special Operations Unit coordinated with the National Security Center and the Supreme Command to secure the airport. The search and security efforts continued until after 0450, the time of the French official's scheduled stopover, but found nothing. The French minister did not stop over at the airport for security reasons.

The French foreign minister reportedly is scheduled to visit Canada to meet with Chinese leaders. The embassy official who took the call said the caller's accent was neither Thai or French, but was like an Arab or an Indian, or the caller could be member of an international terrorist group.

Because the activities of the Air Force security officials occurred on the same morning with the scheduled departure of Prime Minister General Prem for Egypt and Europe, some army units were kept busy verifying the activities for fear of a possible politically motivated event.

Police Major General Kasem Saengmit, commander of the Special Branch, informed MATICHON afterward that a French Embassy official received a bomb threat against the French minister at 1940 on 6 March and informed Thai units concerned about the call. The embassy had booked a VIP room at the airport from 0350 to 0450 for the minister. The ad hoc security measures had to be taken as a precaution until past the minister's scheduled departure time.

PRIME MINISTER DEPARTS FOR EGYPT, EUROPE

BK091053 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 7 Mar 87 p 1

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon this morning departed on a two-week official visit to Cairo and Europe with a joke.

"I hope not to have to land in Hat Yai on my return," Gen Prem joked as he stepped aboard the THAI chartered flight, reminding well-wishers of the previous failed coup attempt. [passage omitted]

The 88 delegates leaving included Interior Minister Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun, Foreign Minister Sitthi Savetsila, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office Suli Mahasanthana, Communication Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha and Minister of Science and Technology Banyat Banthaththan. [passage omitted]

CROWN PRINCE RETURNS FROM PRC VISIT 8 MAR

BK081530 Bangkok Television Service in Thai 1300 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At 1450 [0750 GMT] today, Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon arrived at the Guangzhou airport and boarded the Air Force special plane for the return trip to Thailand. He was seen off at the airport by Ye Xuanping, governor of Guangdong Province. At 1750 [1050 GMT], the royal flight arrived at the Air Force Command Airport. The crown prince received salutes from guards of honor.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES TANK PURCHASE FROM PRC

BK070235 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Mar 87 p 1

[Excerpts] The Army will buy 50 to 60 T69 medium tanks from China at a "friendship" price, Deputy Army Chief of Staff Gen Suchinda Khaprayun said yesterday.

In the first official statement on the deal, he said the tanks to be bought would form one tank battalion.

Gen Suchinda said Beijing offered to sell the tanks at only a token price of 10 per cent of the market price and with a grace period for payment. However, he declined to elaborate on the selling price.

The offer to sell the tanks was made by Gen Yang Dezhi, chief-of-staff of China's armed forces, during his visit to Bangkok in January.

The acquisition of Chinese tanks, which will boost the Army's firepower, is in line with Thailand's plan to diversify its sources of military equipment and also its tight defence budget. [passage omitted]

China earlier supplied free of charge 16 130mm artillery pieces and a considerable amount of ammunition to Thailand.

The guns which have been deployed at sensitive spots along the Thai-Kampuchean border were reported to be effective in repulsing Vietnamese intrusions.

Gen Suchinda said the Army will also receive a new batch of 40 M48-A5 tanks from the United States soon.

The tanks were bought for \$47 million (1,200 million baht), which will cover the tank-mounted guns, ammunition, firecontrol systems radio spare parts, tool sets and support equipment.

The U.S. Defence Department said on Monday it had approved the sale of the tanks. The deal now awaits congressional approval.

APPROVAL FOR ARMY SECRET FUND CRITICIZED

BK060249 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] Members of Parliament yesterday reacted strongly to the Cabinet's approval of an Army request to transfer 279 million from its defence fund to the secret budget, calling the move inappropriate and unnecessary.

Mass Party leader Pol Capt Chaloe Yubamrung said he would raise the matter at an Opposition meeting and recommend its inclusion in the no-confidence debate against the Government and the debate against the Prime Minister for approving it.

Democrat MP for Nakhon Si Thammarat Samphan Paenphat, who strongly opposed last year's secret fund increase, said he would take the matter to the House Administrative Affairs Committee and call Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Defence Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Phaniang Kantarat to testify.

Prachakon Thai MP for Bangkok Yenchit Raphiphat na Ayutthaya, who proposed the controversial four-million-baht cut in the Army's secret fund last year, accused the Army of trying to show its power in every possible way. She said the transfer was unnecessary, saying if the Army claimed the secret fund was needed for the border operations it should have known the situation long beforehand and made the request in the original budget proposal.

The Cabinet on Tuesday approved an Army request to transfer 279 million baht from the 386 million baht national defence plan into the secret fund.

The Army cited national security work requiring speedy and covert operations at the border as a reason for the transfer of the fund.

The Cabinet approval means that the Army's secret fund is almost doubled from 297.7 million to 576.7 million baht.

Pol Capt Chaloe said the transfer of the fund is very inappropriate and unnecessary, despite his opposition to the proposed cut in secret fund last year.

"The transfer means no one would know what the money would be used for," he said.

The Opposition, he said, will make the fund transfer a major issue.

"Both the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister have approved the request which is wrong."

He noted the reason cited by the Army was unsound since the security situation along the border remains unchanged.

"There is no war or fighting and no unrest in the country. So why did they have to make this transfer?"

Mr Samphan Phenphat charged that the aim of the fund transfer was to enable the Army to ask for a larger secret fund next year.

"....The only reason this has been done is to increase the size of the secret budget so that they can cite the figure next year. This shows bad intentions.

"If this goes on then I would recommend that the whole of the Defense Ministry budget be contained in the secret fund so that they won't have to quarrel with MPs," he said sarcastically.

He claimed the country has no need for such a large secret fund. Besides, it is possible for the Army to expedite its spending under the regular budgetary procedures.

"The Army could request the fund and get it on a helicopter to the border within an hour," Mr Samphan said.

Mrs Yenchit said during the time of the previous army chief, the Army had asked for over 500 million baht in extra secret funds which Parliament did not object to because of the security need at the time.

She said the Government has always said the security situation has improved and its anti-communist policy worked well.

"...So there should be no real need for such an extra amount of secret fund," Mrs Yenchit said.

She added sarcastically that if the Army is still not satisfied with the extra secret fund, she would add 2.5 million baht of her own provincial development fund to it.

Army Chief Defends Fund

BK080215 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Transferring part of the Army's budget into a secret fund when the situation demands is a normal legal practice, Army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

In any case the budget had not been allocated for specific purposes, he said. "It is normal practice for the Army to seek Cabinet approval to transfer some of its budget into a secret fund to cope with the situation in accordance with existing regulations," he added.

He said he had already instructed concerned authorities to propose that a secret fund allocation be included in the annual budget proposal so further transfers would not be necessary.

He said he didn't know how large a transfer had been approved by the Government and described this as official level work.

"There is nothing special about this but it seems to me everyone gets excited about anything which is secret," he said.

Meanwhile an informed source said yesterday the Cabinet had recently given approval for the Army to transfer up to 100 million baht into the fund.

The Army had asked to transfer 279 million baht and all the money will be used for national defence, said the source.

He added the transfer was legal if it was approved by the Cabinet.

RADIO OBSERVER ON U.S. REACTION TO REAGAN ADDRESS

BK081415 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Station observer commentary; from the feature: "International Topics"]

[Excerpt] U.S. political circles and public media are talking about President Reagan's 5 March televised address. Some opine that it was one of the most important speeches ever made by Reagan during his Presidency; others contend that it was just an admission of guilt to tide him over the storm of the Irangate scandal. Following are the views of our current affairs observers:

After the Tower Commission for investigation into the Irangate scandal made public its report exposing the U.S. President's guilt in the affair, the White House boss was thrown into great confusion and embarrassment. Reagan's popularity plunged to its lowest ebb: only 42 percent of Americans still supported him. The problem now facing Reagan is how to regain his prestige. The much touted 5 March televised address was a way used by the U.S. President to cope with the situation. As the French news agency AFP had reported, President Reagan would have to make an all-out effort to restore his credibility, which was seriously hurt by the Irangate affair, and under pressure from all sides to admit error, he would make a speech which some observers called his last chance to regain control and to prove to the American people that the President was again on top of the situation.

What did Reagan say in his 5 March speech? He admitted that the arms sales to Iran was an error and that he assumed full responsibility for the consequence of this mess. He pledged that from now on he will work on the basis of a new relationship between the two parties and Congress.

The U.S. President's very short address, which was essentially an admission of error in the Irangate affair, came as a surprise to no one. It was in line with what had been expected. In fact, it was impossible for Reagan to deny his blunder and heavy responsibility. According to various U.S. and Western news agencies, the majority of the U.S. Congress reacted favorably to Reagan's address. However, observers hold that one of the key factors ensuring the success of the speech was rash of personnel changes made by Reagan in the White House's staff, such as the dumping of his Chief of Staff Donald Regan and the appointment of Howard Baker as his replacement; and the dismissal of Gates as director of the CIA in favor of Webster. With these changes, Reagan managed to ease some the pressure first, then he stepped forward himself to admit his mistakes.

But, it is not all over yet. Some Democratic congressmen have stated that Reagan's address did not say all that has to be said and that the President should have been more candid by admitting having flouted and violated the law. The Senate Democratic leader contended that a speech is not enough to restore confidence.

In his 5 March address, Reagan indirectly advised Congress and the American people to stop making a fuss about the affair and devote their attention to other matters, pointing out that, after all, his stay in the White House will last only 2 more years. In short, he wants to make peace, but the Irangate scandal can in no way be settled merely by a presidential admission of guilt. The Senate Investigation Commission is continuing to complete its files and has pledged to make public the whole affair as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the House investigation commission itself is also sharpening its scalpel to dissect this scandal. [passage omitted]

RADIO CITES TASS ON SHEVARNADZE-SUHARTO TALKS

BK081243 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] According to the Soviet news agency TASS, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, currently paying an official visit to Indonesia, held talks with Indonesian President Suharto on 7 March.

Comrade Shevardnadze clearly pointed out the Soviet stand on the issues related to ensuring international security, curbing the arms race on earth, preventing the arms race in space, and halting nuclear tests. President Suharto said: Indonesia highly values the Soviet Union's efforts to completely eliminate nuclear, chemical, and other mass-destruction weapons.

The two sides discussed various problems bearing on the Asia-Pacific situation. They pointed out the urgent need to seek measures to ensure peace and stability in the region with the participation of all Asian countries so as to create a climate of good neighborliness and to promote constructive bilateral and regional cooperation.

NHAN DAN COMMENTS ON SOVIET PEACE INITIATIVE

OW070817 Hanoi VNA in English 0720 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 7 -- The world-wide favourable repercussion to the new peace initiative of the Soviet Union proves that it meets the aspiration of all nations and bears a great significance in the present situation, says NHAN DAN in a commentary today.

The paper notes that the Soviet Union's proposal for singling out medium-range missiles in Europe from the package of disarmament issues not only wins high appreciation and full support from the socialist countries and peaceloving forces in all continents, but has also received favourable comments in Western countries, including the United States. Many Western officials have said the latest Soviet proposal is a good opportunity for stepping up the process of disarmament, pushing back the threat of a nuclear danger in Europe as well as on a global scale.

The Soviet Union's new initiative, the paper adds, "creates a new opportunity for the United States to join efforts in breaking the deadlock in the negotiations on disarmament and solving the concrete issue of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe. If carried out, this will be the starting point toward the gradual and eventually total elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world."

"All nations demand that the United States should not miss the new opportunity brought about by the Soviet Union", the paper notes, recalling that the Reagan administration's behaviour in Reykjavik has been stigmatized universally.

"Public opinion wants to see the U.S. President's 'welcome' to the recent Soviet proposal followed by practical deeds of response", the paper says in conclusion.

SOVIET ENVOY TO VIETNAM KACHIN GIVES TALK

OWO61856 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 6 -- Soviet Ambassador D.I. Kachin today visited the Province of Hai Hung, 60 km east of Hanoi, and gave a talk on the recent session of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, the current reform and the personnel policy in the Soviet Union.

The talks was attended by local leaders, including Le Duc Binh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and provincial party secretary.

NGUYEN HUU THO RECEIVES USSR LAWYERS DELEGATION

OWO61835 Hanoi VNA in English 1519 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 6 -- Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Huu Tho received here this afternoon a visiting delegation of the Soviet Lawyers Association (SLA) led by S.A. Emelianov, member of the executive committee of the SLA and director of the Supreme People's Organ of Control of the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Nguyen Huu Tho expressed full support for the Feb. 28, 1987 statement of General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, considering it a correct measure for the elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe and the rest of the world. That statement, he added, has reflected the high sense of responsibility of the Soviet Union as well as its firm policy of peace.

The Soviet lawyers had working sessions with senior officials of the Vietnam Lawyers Association, the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and the Ministry of Justice. They toured various economic establishments in Hanoi, Ha Nam Ninh Province and Ho Chi Minh City.

SOVIET OIL EXPLORATION SHIPS DEPART FOR VIETNAM

BK070705 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] According to TASS, on 5 March two Soviet ships -- the Diabad and Triad -- left Koshtan-Tau port in southern [name indistinct] for Vietnam.

These two ships will supplement the flotilla of the joint Vietnamese-Soviet oil corporation which is exploring and exploiting oil on the continental shelf off of south Vietnam.

In an interview with TASS, Comrade (Sirienko), commander of the ship convoy, said: The Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation in the field of oil exploration and exploitation will bring about economic interests for both countries. The fraternal Vietnam's continental shelf serves as a very good professional school for our engineers and workers.

The joint Vietnamese-Soviet oil corporation has operated for 6 years now with increasingly better results.

GDR'S FISCHER ARRIVES IN HANOI 9 MARCH

BK090515 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Today, 9 March, Comrade Oskar Fischer, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR foreign minister, arrived in Hanoi for an official friendship visit to our country at the invitation of our government.

FEATURE ON HOSTILITIES AGAINST INDOCHINA, S.E. ASIA

BK060850 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Feature: "Heighten Vigilance for National Defense" by Dao Loc Binh]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends: We would like to report some noteworthy information on the activities of imperialists and reactionaries in the Indochinese and Southeast Asian regions. First of all, what are the enemies' plots and acts of sabotage against our country, Laos, and Cambodia?

In an article of the 1 March issue of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, Lieutenant General Dinh Van Tuy of the Defense Border Force said: From the security standpoint, the northern border area remains the place where complicated problems have occurred hourly and daily.

In addition to the plots, tricks, armed activities, land-grabbing operations, psychological warfare, multifaceted acts of sabotage, and so forth, the enemies have recently sought ways to drive those who have previously followed them, back to Vietnam with a view to causing many political, economic, and social problems to us.

On the seas, noteworthy is the fact that foreign ships and boats still encroach on our territorial waters to catch marine products and spy. Along the Vietnam-Laos and Vietnam-Cambodian borders, the enemies still seek every way to sabotage the life of the peoples in the three countries by spying, fanning up reactionary organizations, and using the bandits and the Pol Pot remnant troops.

We are not alone in regularly denouncing the hostile plots and activities of the enemies against the Indochinese peoples. Public opinion in foreign countries, including the Western press holding differing views, has often voiced such a denunciation. The 25 December 1986 issue of the French daily LE MONDE carried an article by (French Deron) who remarked: One knows that the Khmer Rouge guerrillas -- the Pol Pot remnant troops -- are mainly an extension of Chinese military force in this region.

Nevertheless, Thailand and some of its allies in the ASEAN group as well as many Western countries have been involved to different extents in the activities of the Khmer resistance -- the Cambodian reactionaries in exile. The author further described the situation in the so-called Cambodian refugee camps as follows: Whoever has stayed for some time in the Thai-Cambodian border area, cannot help but observe the discreet CIA activities. One refugee is considered by the U.S. intelligence agency as an interesting source of information and is paid for his intelligence activities. Another one -- a bigger fish -- is responsible for infiltrating one member of his family into Cambodia to collect information. A third refugee is invited to act as a translator. In the long run, they all become clients of the CIA.

From the military standpoint, the Thai Army -- and, in some instances, the Thai Foreign Ministry -- plays the key role. This is not limited to the mere supply of foreign equipment and weapons. Thai military circles have counted accurately the number of weapons and ammunition given to each of the lackey reactionaries charged with penetrating Cambodia and have checked over these weapons when these reactionaries return to Thailand.

The reactionaries' military camps are established along the white perimeter. Most of them are stationed on Thai territory. The Thai troops are stationed in the rear and regularly radio orders to the Khmer lackeys. Cambodian refugees, normally in poor physical condition, have been inducted into sabotage units under the supervision of Thai officials.

So, we can compare the aforementioned facts with the fabrication by the Thai military circles saying that about 100 Vietnamese soldiers have penetrated 3 km deep into Thailand's northeastern province of Ubon Rachathani, and are currently holding their ground. The VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY has been authorized to flatly reject the fabrication. Our country's consistent policy is to strictly respect the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security of Thailand. No one can distort this to serve his malevolent schemes.

We would also like to report some other events concerning relations among the United States, China, Thailand, and the Philippines.

According to Western sources, American and Thai troops last week began a large-scale joint military exercise close to the Thai-Cambodian border with the participation of 43 fighter aircraft, 18 warships, 1 submarine, and a large number of U.S. and Thai soldiers.

VOA on the morning of 4 March quoted a U.S. Defense Department news bulletin as saying that the United States will sell 40 M-48 tanks at the price of \$47 million to Thailand in a move it claims to help improve the security of this country.

Earlier, on 14 February, the paper BANGKOK POST revealed that Thailand was working out a list of weapons it wants to buy from China. Since 1979, China has acted in a number of ways that have assisted Thai security concerns. More concrete Chinese military assistance to Thailand, apart from supplies of ammunition, was the gift of 16 130-mm artillery pieces for use mainly along the Thai-Cambodian border. One of the reasons why the Thai side wants to acquire more weapons from Beijing is China's willingness to sell the weapons cheaply, even at a token price with a 10-year grace period before payment starts.

The author of the article in the BANGKOK POST also noted: Certainly the constant exchange of views among Thai and Chinese government officials from the most senior levels -- such as General Chawalit who has been to China on many occasions, more than to the United States -- to the middle levels, has contributed to these close ties.

However, the article warned that continual buying of weapons and resupplying of spare parts and ammunition at cheap prices invariably create and increase the feeling of indebtedness on the side of the receiver. Such feelings of indebtedness can put Thailand in a difficult position if its security and political interests, at some point in the future, no longer coincide with those of China.

On 2 March, the paper MALAYA disclosed that the United States has begun the dispatch of 4,000 Marines to the Philippines to reinforce American units at Clark Air Base. According to this paper, the increase in the number of U.S. military personnel has been carried out along with vigorous development work at Clark Air Base --home of the 13th U.S. Air Force which controls large airspace in Asia and the Pacific.

On 17 January this year, U.S. military authorities announced the completion of the construction of a new 15-km-long runway for bomber aircraft. Meanwhile, various defense fields near Clark Air Base have become permanent firing ranges and combat training grounds for American units stationed at various military bases, including the Subic Bay Naval Base.

Dear comrades and friends, obviously we can reach the conclusion that these schemes and acts by the imperialists and international reactionaries have only increased tension in Indochina in particular and Southeast Asia in general. It is absolutely not Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia which have created the present situation in this region. On the contrary, these three countries and many other fraternal countries have put forth many fair and reasonable proposals to achieve regional peace and stability. However, the other side has never responded to these proposals.

NGUYEN CO THACH RECEIVES UN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

OWO71926 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 7 -- Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, regional director of the western Pacific of the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) arrived here Thursday as guest of the Ministry of Public Health.

Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima held talks with the Vietnamese minister of public health, Dr. Dang Hoi Xuan. They informed each other of the results the implementation of the cooperation program between Vietnam and this organization. They also discussed measures to step up their cooperation in an effective way.

Dr. H. Nakajima visited various medical facilities in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and the Province of Binh Tri Thien and Quang Nam-Danang. He was received in Hanoi the following day by Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs.

PHAM VAN DONG RECEIVES ALBANIA'S KORBECI

AUO51027 Tirana ATA in English 0810 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tirana March 5 (ATA) -- The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Pham Van Dong, on March 4 received the government trade delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, headed by the minister of foreign trade, Shane Korbeci, and had a warm and friendly talk with him.

The vice premier and minister of foreign trade of the SR of Vietnam, Doan Duy Thanh, attended this meeting. The extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the PSR of Albania in Hanoi, Syrja Laze, was present as well.

USSR'S SHEVARDNADZE ENDS 4-DAY OFFICIAL VISITMokhtar Talks With Shevardnadze

BK061229 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumantmaja this afternoon held two rounds of talks with his Soviet counterpart that lasted about 5 hours. The in-depth talks centered on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Speaking to newsmen after the talks, Mokhtar disclosed that the Cambodian and Afghanistan issues were among the topics discussed. He declined to elaborate further, adding that both sides will hold a press conference and issue a joint statement.

[Begin Mokhtar recording] The talks were held in a cordial, constructive, and very positive manner, but let us wait for a joint statement. Tomorrow, he will hold a joint press conference, and I myself will give one at the airport. [passage indistinct]
[end recording]

The Soviet foreign minister, who arrived in Jakarta yesterday, is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on President Suharto tomorrow. In the afternoon, he will address a panel discussion on international issues organized by the Research and Development Division of the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Department. In the evening, the Soviet foreign minister will hold a press conference at the Soviet Embassy in Jakarta.

Mokhtar on Shevardnadze Talks

BK061240 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Jakarta, March 6 (AFP) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed Friday help try to solve the eight-year-old Cambodian conflict, although he made no new proposals, Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumantmaja said.

Mr Mokhtar told reporters after two sessions of talks here with Mr. Shevardnadze lasting a total of 5-1/2 hours that the Cambodian issue had dominated their "very interesting and useful" discussions.

Earlier, after their first session of talks ended, Mr. Mokhtar said Mr. Shevardnadze had made no new initiative on Cambodia. But Mr. Mokhtar said: "Both sides stated they would help find a settlement." He said he thought the Soviet Union had a willingness to solve the Cambodian issue, but did not elaborate.

Mr. Mokhtar is chief negotiator with Vietnam, Moscow's closest ally in Southeast Asia, for the Association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN). ASEAN seeks a complete withdrawal of the estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops deployed in Cambodia to protect the pro-Vietnamese administration there from Cambodian resistance guerrillas.

ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, has been attempting to negotiate with Hanoi since the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia began in 1979.

Mr. Shevardnadze said through an interpreter: "negotiations went well both in terms of contents and duration." He added: "We discussed wide-ranging issues, bilateral and global."

The Soviet minister said he would give a press conference Saturday, while Mr. Mokhtar said he would talk further only after Mr. Shevardnadze left Indonesia on Sunday.
[passage omitted]

Suharto, Shevardnadse Hold Talks**BK070726 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 7 Mar 87**

[Text] President Suharto this morning received a courtesy call from Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadse, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, at the Bina Graha presidential office in Jakarta. After the meeting, which lasted more than 1 hour, Foreign Minister Mokhtar told newsmen that Shevardnadse had conveyed the greetings of the Soviet leader Gorbachev to the Indonesian president and inquired about the invitation extended to President Suharto to visit the Soviet Union. Mokhtar said that President Suharto had not been able to accept the invitation because of the upcoming general elections in Indonesia.

During the meeting, various issues including the arms race and medium-range missiles, which are now being discussed in Geneva, were discussed by the president and the Soviet foreign minister. The Cambodian problem, Iran-Iraq war, and the Middle East conflicts were also discussed. Foreign Minister Mokhtar said the two countries believed that all these problems could be solved in the near future.

Mokhtar Hosts Dinner**BK070845 Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Mar 87**

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja has stated that the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea is absolutely required to settle the Kampuchean problem. Delivering his address at a dinner party held in honor of the visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadse and his wife in Jakarta last night, Minister Mokhtar said ASEAN had sought a thorough political solution to the Kampuchean problem in accordance with the aspirations that fostered the establishment of the regional organization. He reiterated the call he made at the meeting with the Soviet counterpart in New York last year for the Soviet contribution to the efforts to solve the Kampuchean problem.

Concerning the Afghan problem, Minister Mokhtar expressed happiness for having observed new moves to seek a political solution at the initiative of the Soviet Union. He expressed the hope that the Soviet Union would also take similar steps for the settlement of the Kampuchean conflict.

Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadse held a meeting yesterday, mostly concentrated on regional issues. Mokhtar said that the discussions went on smoothly and were mostly on bilateral and regional matters. Minister Shevardnadse, on the occasion, also said that the talks went on smoothly and the two delegations understood each other well. The meeting received quite an attention from the mass media.

Shevardnadse Holds Press Conference**BK071229 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Mar 87**

[Text] The Soviet Union has invited Indonesia to cooperate in space exploration by using Soviet launch vehicles. The offer is part of Soviet efforts to boost bilateral relations with Indonesia. According to Shevardnadse, these efforts should include direct contacts between private organizations and corporations of the two countries, the setting up of joint venture projects, and an expansion of scientific and technological exchange programs.

The offer was disclosed by visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at a press conference at the Soviet Embassy in Jakarta this evening.

As for his talks with Indonesian leaders, including President Suharto, the Soviet foreign minister described them as constructive, open, and smooth. However, he admitted that differences of opinion still exist in several areas.

Shevardnadze also disclosed that an invitation had been extended to President Suharto and Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumamaja to make an official visit to the Soviet Union. President Suharto had in principle accepted the invitation and the date of the visit would be discussed further.

Replying to newsmen on the solution to the Cambodian problem, Shevardnadze said that the two groups in Southeast Asia, namely ASEAN and the Indochinese countries, ought to have a dialogue to find a solution to the problem.

Further on Press Conference

BK071230 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Jakarta, March 7 (AFP) -- Visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze confirmed Saturday that he would meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for disarmament talks in Moscow next month.

Mr. Shevardnadze said at a press conference that he would raise the issue of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), the U.S. space defence program popularly known as "Star Wars," during his talks with the secretary of state. "Central to those talks will be problems related to nuclear disarmament and the preserving of outer space as a peaceful domain. These questions will be central in our negotiations," Mr. Shevardnadze said. [passage omitted]

Mr. Shevardnadze, on the third day of his four-day visit to Indonesia, confirmed at the press conference that Mr. Shultz would visit Moscow "probably" in mid-April. He did not mention the precise dates.

He said the Soviet disarmament proposal followed a decision by Moscow to separate the problem of SDI from that of medium-range missiles, rather than link them as Moscow had insisted at the Reykjavik summit between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Shevardnadze said discussions on the problems of strategic weapons and outer space would continue and that Moscow expected to make "separate deals" on these issues. At the Reykjavik summit, he said, the two sides had discussed reducing the number of medium range missiles to 100 warheads in Soviet Asia and a similar number in the United States. "This is not a final resolution, but it is a step towards a solution. It will depend on whether we can agree with the Americans," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

On Friday, Mr. Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union was ready to give up its role as a nuclear power but only if the United States did likewise.

Shevardnadze on Domestic Reforms**BK071340 Hong Kong AFP in English 1335 GMT 7 Mar 87**

[Text] Jakarta, March 7 (AFP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said here Saturday that there is resistance in his country to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's new liberalisation policies. But Mr. Shevardnadze told a press conference on the third day of his four-day visit to Indonesia those against the liberalisation were not in a majority and that they would be "helped."

"It is quite natural, the process of change in a society, of democratisation, is not a simple one, and it is quite natural that not all are ready to engage in the process of change and renewal — morally, mentally, psychologically and professionally," he said.

"But (those against it) are not regarded as enemies or foes. They are still Soviet people, though not the majority," the Soviet foreign minister added. "We help those who resist but of course not by administrative sanctions or by repression, because trying to do that would be inconsistent with our efforts to move towards democratisation," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze did not elaborate on how the state would help the resisters.

Shevardnadze Rejects Cambodia Intervention**BK071410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 7 Mar 87**

[Text] Jakarta, March 7 (AFP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Saturday that Moscow did not intend to intervene in the Cambodian conflict but urged Southeast Asian nations to continue their dialogue to find a settlement.

Mr. Shevardnadze said at a press conference on the third day of his four-day visit to Indonesia that he "did not present any new proposal" during talks Friday with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumastmaja.

"The question of a settlement (to the Cambodian conflict) should be tackled by countries in Southeast Asia," he said.

Mr Mokhtar urged the Soviet Union Friday to use its influence on Vietnam, Moscow's closest ally in the region, to withdraw the estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops stationed in Cambodia.

"Vietnam is an independent and sovereign state and they determine their own policy," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

However he said Moscow was prepared to promote continued dialogue between Hanoi and its two Indochinese allies, Cambodia and Laos, and the non-communist countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"We need to find a solution in accordance with the wishes of the people of Cambodia and the neighbouring countries," he said.

The Indochinese countries and Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN had interesting proposals and these formed a good basis for a dialogue, he added.

ASEAN -- grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand -- has rejected any dialogue with the Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh if the tripartite Cambodian resistance coalition headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk does not play the major role.

ASEAN supports the resistance coalition and does recognize the Phnom Penh regime.

Mr. Shevardnadze also ruled out drawing any parallels with a potential Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia as was suggested by Mr. Moktar in a speech Friday.

Observers noted that in both Bangkok and Australia at the beginning of his 11-day tour of Asia, Mr. Shevardnadze had been quoted as saying the current negotiations over Afghanistan could serve as a model for Cambodian solution.

He said Saturday however that "a direct parallel is not appropriate because the conditions are significantly different in the two countries."

"The stage of development is different, the region is different, the constellations of power are also different" he said without elaborating.

Asked if the refusal of ASEAN to talk with the Phnom Penh government posed a major obstacle to dialogue between the two regional groupings, he replied: "We should look at reality. There's a government in Phnom Penh... This is a fact."

He said a proposal by Phnom Penh for a dialogue with Mr. Sihanouk and other factions "except the (Chinese-backed) Khmer Rouge" deserved close attention and had to be seriously considered by those concerned.

(Reports from Bangkok Friday quoted Radio Hanoi as saying troops would not be withdrawn until the Khmer Rouge were "eliminated.")

Mr. Shevardnadze did not directly back the Radio Hanoi statement, but said that the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979 (when Vietnam invaded the country) could not be forgotten.

The Soviet foreign minister is scheduled to leave Indonesia Sunday for Vientiane, Hanoi and Phnom Penh.

Shevardnadze Departs for Laos

BK080508 Hong Kong AFP in English 0453 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Jakarta, March 8 (AFP) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze ended a four day visit to Indonesia Sunday and flew to Vientiane where he will begin a trip round the three Indochinese capitals -- Laos, Vientiane and Cambodia. [passage omitted]

AQUINO SAYS REBELS HAVE 'LOST PUBLIC SUPPORT'

HK080914 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 8 (AFP) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino Sunday said here that communist rebels had lost public support and urged the Armed Forces to "move in step" with the people to protect its victory against the insurgents.

"The battle for hearts and minds was won here a year ago. It is now up to our men in uniform to protect that victory and defend its gains," she told artillery officers at a suburban military [gathering] here.

Peace talks between the Philippine Government and the communist insurgents collapsed in January, dimming hopes for a political settlement of the 18-year insurgency which has claimed ten of thousands of lives. At least 267 people have been killed since an unprecedented cease-fire between the government and communist forces ended February 8, the official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY reported Sunday, citing military statistics.

Later reports said that communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels had killed one [or] two officials and 10 members of the security forces in week-end attacks.

Mrs. Aquino said those "who misread the national will and overestimate their popular support will fall by the wayside," citing as example her deposed predecessor Ferdinand Marcos and the "mavericks of the recent past."

"That too is the reality that confronts a stubborn communist 'nsurgency that has yet to know that it has lost its heart and soul, that is, the hopes and trust of the people," she added.

Mrs. Aquino also said that last month's massive turnout for the first anniversary celebration of the February revolt showed that "the people still have the power and that power is growing in numbers." She added that the government and the military were "merely agents of this power."

She asked the military, which is reported to be split into several factions, to unite with the government against the insurgents, saying: "Let us not allow those who would subvert our freedoms and return us to slavery convince us that our differences constitute fatal divisions within our ranks."

The military said Sunday that suspected communist rebels had killed a town official and 10 members of the Armed Forces in two attacks near here and during an ambush in the central province of Capi over the weekend.

Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos had said Friday that the NPA would step up attacks to coerce people into voting for NPA-backed candidates in the May congressional elections.

In the central province of Samar, about 70 NPA rebels Saturday raided the town hall at Baranas and made off with 37 rifles, military spokesman said.

The regional military commander has questioned the absence of guards at the town hall, where weapons used by government militiamen were kept, and ordered a probe into the incident, the spokesmen added.

AQUINO DISCUSSES REFORMS WITH PMA CADETS

HK061226 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] In a meeting with Philippine Military Academy [PMA] cadets at Malacanang today, President Corason Aquino assured them that changes would be introduced in the military in order to ensure the progress of the country. For more details, here is a report by Tony Bernal.

[Begin recording] This was the statement of Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno at the press briefing in Malacanang this afternoon concerning the 1 hour meeting of the president with the cadets this morning at the Heroes Hall. Secretary Benigno added that the president said to achieve this it was necessary to have the assistance of the cadets. Benigno also said that the president's dialogue with the cadets went smoothly. Also present was General Rodolfo Biazon, PMA superintendent. [passage indistinct]

Also discussed at the meeting were communism, changes in the academy, and better relations between civilian and military personnel.

At the same time, Benigno stated at a press briefing that new appointments to the cabinet were expected to be sworn in to office at 0930 on the morning of [words indistinct]. They will replace the cabinet members who will be running for the Senate and House in the coming elections.

Tony Bernal, reporting from Malacanang. [end recording]

AQUINO APPOINTS FOUR NEW CABINET MEMBERS

HK090330 Hong Kong AFP in English 0259 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 9 (AFP) -- Four new cabinet members were appointed Monday and immediately sworn-in by President Corason Aquino at the presidential palace, following the decision of eight of her ministers to join the congressional elections on May 11.

Ramon Diaz becomes chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government in replacement of Jovito Salonga. Mr Diaz, 65, who was Mr Salonga's deputy, told reporters that the commission will "continue the prosecution of the suits that we have filed", when asked if he would make any changes in the procedures of the controversial commission. The commission has been accused of abusing its powers by arbitrarily taking over assets suspected to be owned by deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, relatives and close associates.

Solicitor General Sedfrey Ordones replaces Neptali Gonzales as justice secretary. Mr Ordones, aged 65, is a long-time civil libertarian.

Carlos Dominguez, 41, appointed three months ago natural resource secretary, switches to agriculture where he replaces Ramon Mitra.

The new natural resources secretary is the deputy executive secretary, Fulgencio Factoran, aged 43.

The replacements for the agrarian reform and budget secretaries, Heherson Alvarez and Alberto Romulo, will be announced later. The president is still choosing, Teodoro Benigno, her press secretary said.

It was not immediately announced if President Aquino has decided to abolish the offices of the presidential legal counsel, Rene Saguisag, political affairs adviser, Antonio Cuenca, and national affairs adviser, Aquilino Pimentel, as widely reported by the press. Mr Pimentel and Mr Saguisag are candidates for Senate.

Mr Benigno denied reports that the controversial executive secretary, Joker Arroyo, has presented his resignation. "He has not resigned, and according to the president, she has not received any letter of resignation," he said.

Quoting the president, Mr Benigno also said of the government changes that "she has endeavoured to seek replacements who are equal in competence and integrity, if not better people".

SENIOR DFA OFFICIAL URGES CLOSURE OF U.S. BASES

HK080700 Manila THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 8 Mar 87 pp 1, 6

[Text] A senior official of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) declared yesterday that for security reasons, the Philippines should not extend the RP [Republic of the Philippines] -U.S. bases agreement beyond 1991.

Referring to the U.S. bases as "a magnet for attack" the official, who asked not to be identified, noted that when potential enemies are threatened, the first thing they would do is "attack, despite all statements at the United Nations and outside UN that they will never be the first to use the nuclear weapons."

"We in the Philippines are never secure considering that Cam Ranh Bay is very near us," said the official who has attended world conferences on UN programs.

Western world opinion, he said, is agreed that the Russians have a base in Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam despite denials to the contrary.

It is well known that the Russians have modernized the base which used to be an American base before the fall of Vietnam, equipping it with the latest weapons of war, including nuclear armaments.

A second reason why the Philippines should close down the U.S. bases is psychological, the official said.

"We have become dependent on the bases," he said. "You'll note that every time we have a crisis here, kunyari daw magbabakasyon dito yung mga barko ng mga Amerikano. (Whenever a crisis occurs here, the U.S. brings in its Pacific fleet, on the excuse of giving its soldiers and sailors time out for rest and recreation)."

The official said he believes the lands on which the U.S. bases stand can be given to farmers. "This will be very helpful in enhancing the president's land reform program. There will be many Filipino families who will get lands from these bases," he said.

The RP-U.S. bases treaty agreement will expire in 1991, but talks on whether or not to renew the treaty or not are scheduled to be held next year.

The new Constitution bans the presence of nuclear weapons and armaments in Philippine territory.

After the treaty expires in 1991 foreign military bases, troops and facilities will not be allowed in the Philippines, except under a new treaty that must have the concurrence of the Senate and be ratified by the people in a national referendum.

31 KILLED, THOUSANDS FLEE FIGHTING IN SOUTH

HK070652 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Davao, Philippines, March 7 (AFP) -- Thousands of civilians have fled their homes around this southern city to escape a military campaign against communist guerrillas, which has left 31 people dead in the past week, the military said here Saturday.

Regional Military Commander Brigadier General Romeo Recina told AGENCE FRANCE [PRESSE] Saturday that some 10,000 security personnel, backed by artillery and helicopter gunships, were taking part in the week-long campaign against communist New People Army's (NPA) rebels, around Davao and in three nearby provinces.

He said that some 8,000 people had fled their homes in the affected areas, and in the nearby towns of Maco and Digos, to escape the fighting and an expected fresh military offensive beginning midnight (1600 GMT) Saturday. Twenty-six rebels and five civilians had been killed when military units and rocket-firing helicopters stormed NPA positions around this city, the general said, adding that the military had suffered no casualties.

Brig. Gen. Recina said that the offensive was in retaliation for an NPA raid on a police outpost last Saturday in the Mandug district, near here, in which one policeman was killed and three of his colleagues wounded. He said the five dead civilians had been caught in ground crossfire. Earlier reports in the local press said they had been hit by rocket fire.

Meanwhile, Local Governments Secretary Jaime Ferrer said here Saturday that the government was organizing armed anti-communist groups in Mindanao Island, including Davao, to help regular soldiers fight the NPA. He said that the program would first be implemented in 14 Mindanao provinces, and later extended to the main island of Luzon and the central Philippines.

Mr. Ferrer told reporters that these groups would not be armed by the government and would have to rely on their own weapons. Anti-communist religious cults in the south often use machetes and knives in clashes with NPA rebels.

Brig. Gen. Recina admitted, for the first time, Saturday that Alsa Masa [People's Uprising] members were taking part in the campaign by serving as guides to the military. The Alsa Masa, numbering about 9,000 here, is notorious here for alleged abuses against civilians. Some of them are known to have firearms but the military has denied arming them.

Armed Forces chief Fidel Ramos said Friday that the NPA would step up its armed campaign in the run-up to the May 11 national elections, probably to coerce people into backing leftist candidates. He told a gathering of businessmen in Manila that insurgency-related violence in the country had returned to the level prevalent before the government and rebels forged 60-day truce, which ended February 8.

Before the cease-fire accord, reached December 10, an average of three soldiers, three rebels and three civilians were killed daily.

ILETO: U.S. EXPRESSED 'CONCERN' OVER INSURGENCY

HK061341 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 6 (AFP) -- The United States has expressed "serious concern" over the mounting threat of the communist insurgency in the Philippines, Defense Secretary Rafael Ileta was quoted as saying Friday.

Washington's apprehension was relayed to Mr Ileta by U.S. Ambassador to Manila Stephen Bosworth and other ranking civilian and defense officials, the official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (PNA) quoted the defense chief as saying. He said the Americans were "very much concerned" about the situation because they wanted "to keep our country a democratic country," he added.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Mary Carlin told the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the mission had no comment on the reported statement of Mr Ileta, who could not be immediately reached for confirmation.

Over 200 people have been killed since a 60-day cease-fire between government forces and communist rebels expired on February 8, according to official figures.

The Philippines, a former U.S. colony, is host to Clark Air Base and Subic Naval base, two of the largest U.S. overseas military facilities. U.S. officials have previously said publicly that the two installations were menaced by the growth of the New People's Army (NPA), the 24,000-strong armed wing of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). The CPP, as well as several legal left-wing and nationalist organizations, are campaigning for the immediate dismantling of the bases.

ILETO RULES OUT USING FOREIGN TROOPS AGAINST NPA

HK070721 Manila THE PHILIPPINE STAR in English 7 Mar 87 pp 1, 6

[By Frankie Tuyay and Dava Gomez]

[Excerpt] U.S. officials are gravely concerned over the growing threat of the escalating insurgency problem to national stability, but Defense Minister Rafael Ileta ruled out the use of foreign troops in fighting the rebels.

The defense official said American officials, including Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, had conveyed to him their "general feeling that the sooner we stabilize the situation the better."

As if to underscore the gravity of the situation, Ileta also said the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has deployed five more battalions of about 3,000 men to Metro Manila following reports that insurgents will launch attacks against military and government installations and commercial establishments.

Ileta said the rebels have been infiltrating the metropolis, possibly to launch urban terrorism before and during the forthcoming elections.

Former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile told THE STAR columnist Luis D. Beltran during the Straight From the Shoulder TV show Thursday that the military had discovered the presence of NPAs in Metro Manila and had pinpointed a string of safehouses they had established in San Juan and Manila.

Despite the increasing death toll from insurgency related incidents, chief government negotiator Teofisto Guingona also said yesterday the government welcomes the resumption of peace talks with the National Democratic Front. The government, however, prefers pursuing regional negotiations. [passage omitted]

INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS SAY KGB SUPPORTING REBELS

NK080623 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 8 Mar 87 pp 1, 11

[By Jose de Vera]

[Text] Soviet spies masquerading as nationals of East European countries of the Soviet bloc have been actively operating in the Philippines in the past few years, sources in the intelligence community disclosed yesterday.

According to these sources, the KGB (the Soviet intelligence agency) has increased the number of its agents and intensified its activities during the 60-day cease-fire between the communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF) and the Philippine Government.

The Soviet spies, the sources said, support local communist insurgents through financial assistance, military hardware, propaganda, guerrilla operational tactics, and agitation-propaganda (agit-prop), as well as in infiltration of labor, peasant, student, business, religious, and professional groups.

Some agents come as businessmen, tourists, or cultural workers while others are disguised as nationals of other countries aligned with the Soviet Union.

To further expand their operation in the Visayas and Mindanao, the sources said there is now a move by the Soviet Union to establish a consulate in Cebu City.

If this initial test succeeds, the sources said, a move to establish another consulate in Mindanao, possibly in Zamboanga City, would follow.

As disclosed by the sources, the KGB interest in Mindanao is not to convert the Muslims to communism but merely to supply them military hardware and other assistance to enable them to maintain their belligerent attitude toward the Manila government.

Main targets in this operational scheme in Mindanao are the Moro National Liberation Front and its splinter groups, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the Reformist Muslim group, the sources said.

The same sources have confirmed the disclosure by a former NPA commander, Welijado Basanez, alias Commander Marcado, who claimed three Soviet agents were supporting communist insurgents' operations in Surigao del Norte.

The sources said that in some areas in Mindanao, the Bicol region and Northern Luzon, especially in places where there are gold panning operations, the Soviet spies join the gold panning as "German" experts.

MILITARY SAYS CLERGY 'CODDLING' VISAYAS REBELS

HK061311 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 6 Mar 87 p 16

[Text] Dingle, Iloilo — The military in Western Visayas accused some members of the clergy yesterday of not only "coddling" but also providing communist insurgents with supplies.

At the same time, the military also blamed certain civil agencies of government for delaying implementation of developmental and rehabilitation projects mandated by Executive Order No 103 by simply washing their hands and blaming the whole mess on the military.

These accusations were thrust to the surface in briefings given Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, Armed Forces chief of staff, by Brig. Gen. Domingo Rio, commander of Regional Unified Command (RUC) VI and Brig. Gen. Franklin Samonte, commander of the 3rd Infantry (Army) Division.

Ramos, in the company of some members of his staff, local and foreign media representatives, arrived here from Cebu on the second leg of his flying visit to military installations in Cebu, Panay and Negros Islands.

In the briefing, Rio said some members of the clergy in Negros and Panay Islands are engaged in activities designed to discredit the government and the military.

He said facilities of the church were being made available to the radicals by some priests and nuns.

According to Rio, Marcos loyalists, political warlords and a big number of former followers of deposed President Marcos who are found in Region IV have been active in political activities in Metro Manila.

On the insurgency and peace and order situations in Western Visayas, Rio said that in Region 6, the Communist Party, the New People's Army, and the National Democratic Front have organized two island party committees, namely the Panay Island Regional Committee and the Negros Regional Party Committee.

The combined estimated strength of the two island committees he said is 2,182 hard core party members, 1,190 armed NAP regulars. 11,737 subversive mass activists and 1,667 firearms. [sentences as published]

Rio pointed out that since the termination of the cease-fire last Feb. 8, peace continues in the Region 6 except for some liquidations and much extortion activities by the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA. Their open propaganda work greatly declined after the Feb. 2 plebiscite, he said.

RAMOS CLAIMS REBELS OUT TO TERRORIZE ELECTORATE

HK080452 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0400 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fidel Ramos said Friday night he expects communist-instigated violence to continue until the May 11 elections, apparently to terrorize voters into supporting left-leaning candidates. Ramos aired the warning in a speech during the 15th (7biennial) convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel.

He said insurgency-related incidents have increased since February 8, when the cease-fire ended. Close to 250 people have been killed since fighting broke out anew between government forces and the New People's Army guerrillas.

The rising trend of communist terrorist-initiated incidents and atrocities will probably continue to be sustained up to the time of the congressional elections in May this year, and perhaps this could be an effort on their part to terrorize people into supporting the communist-backed candidates, Ramos said.

The chief of staff also noted that the rebels were mobilizing their sectorial and front organizations lately for antigovernment mass action apparently intended to create a so-called revolutionary atmosphere, but he said the government is in control of the situation, despite outbursts of violent incidents in various parts of the country.

RAMOS ON REBEL 'SINCERITY' IN TALKS RESUMPTION

HK061234 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 6 Mar 87 pp 1, 11

[By D. Florida Jr]

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos called upon communist rebels to stop taxing the rural folk to prove their "sincerity" in resuming peace talks with the government.

Ramos made the statement during a news conference in Cebu City the other day shortly after the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) indicated its willingness to return to the negotiating table based on an agenda of "food and freedom, jobs and justice, and land and liberation."

The government and NDF panels indefinitely suspended the talks Jan. 22 after a month of fruitless negotiations. More than 200 persons have been killed in renewed fighting between government and rebel forces since the 60-day truce was allowed to expire by both sides on Feb. 8.

Ramos said the government has insisted that rebels lay down their arms as the "bottom line" in ending 18 years of communist insurgency. The rebels, however, rule out surrender as a precondition for peace, Ramos said.

Still, he said, resumption of the talks remains a possibility if the rebels would only stop its "progressive taxation" in the countryside.

"Why don't we ask them to stop collecting progressive taxes from the people?" Ramos asked.

He said the rebels should spare not only the poor villagers but also "small businessmen and entrepreneurs who make up 80 percent of the rural economic sector."

By stopping tax collections, the rebels not only prove the "sincerity" of their offer to talk peace but also their claim that they "protect the people."

Otherwise, he said, communist rebels should stop calling their taxation "progressive" because, according to him, it is actually "regressive and illegal" and a form of "mulcting and stealing from the small people."

"They say that as a revolutionary movement they are justified in taxing the multinationals," Ramos said. "What they do not say is that they are also taxing plain family heads and housewives, small store owners, jeepney operators, fishermen, and viajeros [travelers]."

Despite this, according to Ramos, the government "has always given peace a chance."

The government, he said, is keeping "the windows of peace open. Pero siguro, mas maliit na ang butas ngayon (But maybe, the opening is smaller this time)."

FURTHER ON PROPOSALS FOR PEACE TALKS WITH REBELS

HE061227 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GWT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Chief Government Negotiator Teofisto Guingona today supported the statement of Defense Secretary Rafael Ilete that the government pay attention first to negotiations with rebels at the regional level. Nevertheless, Guingona told reporters that the government panel was still awaiting the official message of the NDF on its proposal to resume the suspended peace talks.

Meanwhile, Guingona explained that government peace talks with communist rebels at the regional level were fruitful.

[Begin Guingona recording in English] We are awaiting their announcement that they are willing to conduct a peace negotiations process. We are waiting, and up to now, there has been no more cease-fire. So, we have to do this on a confidential basis, similar to [words indistinct]. We are waiting so that we can know which parameters to use for the basis for resuming discussions again. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Rafael Ilete said today that the government was prepared to resume negotiations with the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA-NDF [National Democratic Front], but that it was concerned about the military strength of the Communist Party, which at present posed an obstacle to the negotiations. For more details, here is Jun Francisco.

[Begin Francisco recording] Ilete said that the communists have their own formidable forces and that they would seek to maintain this force even if the government should agree to peace negotiations.

In an interview with defense reporters at Camp Aguinaldo, he said that the government may talk to the communists, but it should also remove the military capability of the communists. He added that new disturbances by the CPP-NPA-NDF were expected in the next few days but that they would not last long and calm would return.

Ilete said the Armed Forces would use force against the NPA in order to halt the latter's violence against the people. [end recording]

NDF PUSHES PEACE, ASSAILS MILITARY'S WAR POLICY

HE080745 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 8 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] The communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) reiterated yesterday its "continuing willingness to pursue all avenues for a just peace."

NDF spokesman Antonio Zumel said the NDF has always been willing to talk peace with the Aquino government "but it should act decisively" to reform the military, dismantle all government militia forces as well as "religious fanatic sects and armed groups."

Zumel assailed Defense Secretary Rafael Iileto's statements Friday that the military would not go along with new peace talks on a national level.

He charged that the military was conditioning Metro Manila's seven million residents with stories that New People's Army (NPA) rebels now operate in the capital so the people would give soldiers "a free hand in unleashing full-scale suppression operations."

Zumel said the pronouncements by defense and military officials rejecting new national-level peace negotiations exposed their "deep-seated anxiety and fear" that the resumption of talks would "compromise and jeopardize their current policy of total war against the revolutionary forces."

"The Armed Forces and defense leadership reject any peace negotiations on the national level because it has already locked itself into a policy of total war against the entire revolutionary movement," he said.

The former NDF negotiator said the policy of total war includes the ongoing military troop buildup, combat operations, hamletting, strafing and food blockades as well as the organization of armed right-wing groups like the Alsa Masa [People's Uprising] and a network of military spies in the country's 42,000 barangays.

Zumel charged the Alsa Masa with spreading "white terror" by launching a systematic series of hamletting, intimidation, illegal searches, and killings in Davao City.

"At the core of this emergent terrorist force is the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines], which arms, bankrolls and trains the Alsa Masa," said Zumel. "If allowed to go unchecked, it will not be long before entire barangays are engulfed by military agents and informers, and fascism once more openly holds sway in our country."

He also warned about the "anti-communist hysteria being steadily fanned" by military quarters.

NPA HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR QUEZON CITY KILLINGS

NK061211 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1000 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Camp Aguinaldo confirmed that a NPA sparrow unit was responsible for the murder of Colonel Benjamin Casabar and Sergeant Alberto Lorensana the other day in Tanawi, Quezon City. Camp Aguinaldo sources also reported on NPA operations in Manila. Here is Beth Luarca.

[Begin recording in English] The rash of assassinations in Metro Manila, sources said, may be attributed to assigned executions given to sparrow recruits before they are accepted as full-fledged regulars. The recruits are also young -- 20 to 25 years old -- though they pass themselves off as students. In fact, the recruits are required to bring with them student identification cards so that in the event that they become casualties, the police or military men may be charged with violations of human rights or even police brutality, the sources said.

The same sources said that the recruitment of sparrow unit members was accelerated during the 60-day cease-fire period. The CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA were taking advantage of the lull in hostilities because the NDF [National Democratic Front] pretended to negotiate with the government. Thus they were able to consolidate their forces, spread their propaganda, and identify targets such as government facilities and personalities. [end recording]

CPP ORGAN CRITICIZES AQUINO 'POISONOUS REFORMISM'

HK070746 Quezon City ANG PANAYAGANG MALAYA in English 7 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] The outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] has accused the Aquino government of spreading "poisonous reformism" while carrying on with the violent history of the dictatorship of deposed President Marcos.

The CPP said it is an illusion to hope for peace under the "reactionary rule of the U.S.-Aquino clique that is hell-bent on imposing its oppressive and exploitative powers."

"(Poisonous reformism) is the essential character of the regime's counterinsurgency campaign," the CPP's official organ ANG BAYAN (THE NATION) said in its February issue that reached MALAYA yesterday.

The CPP pointed to two government's reform programs after the cease-fire ended on Feb. 8, which it said "sweeten murderous bullets." There are peace talks at the regional levels and at the same time, the offer of general amnesty.

The CPP said such offer is the "latest and most revealing proof of the U.S.-Aquino regime's elaborate and insidious scheme to split and disintegrate the national democratic revolutionary movement while refusing to address the fundamental problems that are at the root of the armed conflict in the land."

While insisting on talks at the regional level, the CPP said, the government also boasted of "concentration of fascist attacks in selected regions, mentioning Negros as the laboratory for the Armed Forces of the Philippines' [AFP] show of force."

American political analysts earlier disclosed that the U.S. National Security Council [NSC], in its initial assessment on the Philippine situation, found that the AFP lacks unity and professionalism. The NSC thus suggested to the AFP to concentrate their firepower on Negros Island.

The CPP said the Aquino government has no other aim in issuing reformist statements than to confuse and divert the people from the roots of poverty, injustice and the radical solution of these problems.

"No simple cease-fire or superficial reforms of Aquino can end the violence of hunger, unemployment, landlessness and repression of the reactionary state -- the day-to-day violence of foreign and feudal exploitation and oppression," the CPP said.

It said the "peace without dissent" and the "peace in heavens" peddled by the government are mere anesthetics to numb the people to the intensifying blows of violence.

"The U.S.-Aquino regime turned the cease-fire and the negotiations into one big counterinsurgency operation. [paragraph continues]

And this only highlighted the treachery and the character of the present regime as a violent organ of reactionary class rule," the CPP said.

The CPP rejected anew the government's insistence that the new Constitution be the framework of a new round of peace negotiations.

"In exchange for amnesty and bribes, the Aquino regime insists on the surrender of the NDF [National Democratic Front] and the latter's submission to its reactionary rule. The regime is now distorting the NDF's pull-out from the talks to mean the latter's betrayal of the people's desire for peace. It is using this to rationalize its savage attacks against the revolutionary movement," the CPP said.

MARCOS PARTY EXCLUDED FROM OPPOSITION TICKET

HK080311 Hong Kong AFP in English 0303 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 8 (AFP) -- Diehard allies of deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos have been excluded from the right-wing opposition Senate ticket led by Juan Ponce Enrile, authoritative sources said here Sunday.

In retaliation, Mr. Marcos' New Society Movement (KBL) is threatening to field a rival full slate for the 24-seat Senate in the May 11 congressional elections, sources present at the stormy opposition selection process said.

The final lineup of the Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) includes Mr. Enrile, a former defense minister in President Corason Aquino's cabinet, and Arturo Tolentino, a Marcos ally who recently withdrew his support for the exiled former leader's claim to the presidency, the sources said.

Leaders of the Marcos loyalist movement insisted up to the last minute that they be included, offering massive funding for the campaign, and they angrily walked out after a selection committee refused to include them late Saturday, the sources said. The deadline for filing of candidacy was midnight Sunday (March 8).

The GAD ticket also includes Marcos Labor Minister Blas Ople and leading politicians once allied with Mrs. Aquino -- former MP's Homobono Adasa and Eva Estrada Kalaw, and resigned Defense Undersecretary Wilson Gamboa. Most of the GAD candidates are known as hardline rightists.

Like Mrs. Aquino's lineup, which includes seven cabinet members, the great majority of the GAD bets are lawyers who had served at one time or another in the old Congress or National Assembly during Mr. Marcos' 20 years in power.

The Philippines is restoring a U.S.-style presidential system under a new Constitution that was overwhelmingly ratified last month. Campaigning for the Senate starts Monday, and for the 250-seat Lower House on March 24.

More on Opposition Split

HK070731 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 7 Mar 87 pp 1, 6

[Text] A three-cornered fight for Senate seats emerged yesterday as the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan [KBL] decided to field its own candidates following the collapse of unity talks in the political opposition.

The KBL broke away from the Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD), a two-week-old coalition of opposition political parties, after prominent KBL senatorial aspirants were stricken off GAD's slate.

Because of their close identification with Ferdinand Marcos, the KBL aspirants were judged politically doomed by GAD leaders and were replaced in the coalition's ticket by anti-Marcos candidates.

Two KBL bets, former Batasan Speaker Nicanor Yniguez and former Misamis Oriental Vice Gov. Rufus Rodriguez, filed their certificates of candidacy with the Commission on Elections yesterday.

The 22 other KBL candidates will file their certificates today and tomorrow, the deadline set for senatorial aspirants.

"We are going to field a complete 24-man slate," Rodriguez told friends outside the Commission on Elections central office.

The KBL bolted GAD after more than two weeks of trying to forge unity with six other political parties and come up with a single opposition slate.

The KBL broke its fragile ties with GAD after Vicente Puyat, the coalition's political strategist, claimed that association with Marcos is a "virtual kiss of death" to opposition senatorial aspirants.

Puyat added there is need to put senatorial candidates with known "Hawaiian connections out of commission."

Instead of names like Yniguez and Leonardo Perez, two loyal lieutenants of Marcos, GAD took in bitter Marcos critics Homobono Adaza and Rene Espina.

The GAD's senatorial lineup is led by former defense chief Juan Ponce Enrile, one of the key figures in the civilian-backed military revolt which ousted Marcos in February 1986.

A three-cornered fight for Senate seats should weaken the opposition's chances of dominating the Upper House.

Leaders of both GAD and KBL concede that their resources would be diffused and the grassroots organizations which have hoped for a single opposition slate would be placed in greater quandary.

Asked to comment on the KBL's decision, Adaza said there is still hope that the KBL would withdraw from the senatorial race after some concessions. He did not elaborate.

Adaza, however, told the INQUIRER that the seven opposition parties were scheduled to meet last night to finalize GAD's slate of 24 and discuss the implications of the KBL's decision to go it alone.

The other day, GAD said 22 of its 24 candidates have been chosen.

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